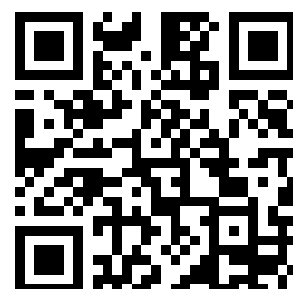

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The Arms of
RICHARD HUDSON, OF WYKE HOUSE,
1744 — 1804.

THE MANORS
OF
WIKE BURNELL AND WYKE WARYN,
IN THE
COUNTY OF WORCESTER,
WITH SOME ACCOUNT OF
THE SEVERAL LORDS THEREOF, OF THEIR FAMILIES, OF THE
VILLAGE, AND OF THE IMMEDIATE NEIGHBOURHOOD,
FROM THE
VIITH CENTURY TO THE PRESENT TIME.

BY
C. E. MOGRIDGE HUDSON
(late in Command in H.M. Q^d Navy).

Printed for the Author by
JAMES PARKER AND CO.
OXFORD, 1901.

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TO
ALFRED RICKETTS HUDSON, ESQUIRE,
OF WYKE HOUSE, CO. WORCESTER,
LORD OF THE MANORS
OF
WYKE BURNELL AND WYKE WARYN,
A JUST LANDLORD,
A KINDLY AND GENEROUS
SQUIRE
TO HIS TENANTS,
A PRUDENT CONSERVATOR
AND A WISE IMPROVER
OF THE LANDS
THAT CAME TO HIM FROM HIS
FOREFATHERS,
I DEDICATE
THIS BOOK.

MEMORANDUM.

THE Author would crave the indulgence of the reader in this his first attempt at bookmaking, and with no previous experience of the manifold idiosyncracies of Printers.

Originally the intention was for it to be a memoir of Wick and of the Hudsons, and to be called Hudson of Wick, but "l'appétit vient en mangeant" and its extension far beyond the early intention shewed that Title to be unsuitable; hence (the earlier sheets having been printed) a certain inconsistency in the Title and the page headings.

C. E. MOGRIDGE HUDSON.

RINGSTEAD, DORSETSHIRE,
1 Aug. 1901.

P R E F A C E.

IN a work of this kind, which is bound to be more or less personal in some of its pages, it may (notwithstanding that its circulation is limited to the 100 copies of the edition) be perhaps by some, thought in places to trench on ground which should not be dealt with. If such there be I hasten to tender my apologies, and can only say that it is by inadvertence; in that I have throughout had this point clearly on my mind, and have been silent as to the living.

When death erects a Hatchment over the hall door, those who sit on the very front benches in this world are dealt with by the biographer, and if so, why not all? Should records not be made when the incidents are green in the mind of the writer the information is possibly for ever forgotten, and the interest that much which is placed on record in the following pages will be to future generations, should I trust be considered ample justification for my writing all that I have.

Perhaps the reader may be curious to know what reasons induced me to so publish this work. I will make a present of them.

My sweet, good Mother dying when I was only five, I do not remember her; but Oldaker by birth, and Mogridge on the distaff side, she was the clever, well-read daughter of a still cleverer and better read Mother; and the loss of a Mother was the inestimable gain to me of being brought up during the ages from five to thirteen by my maternal Grandmother, the daughter of the Rev. John Mogridge, sometime Vicar of Pershore; a woman who was born in 1779, in the days of Hair Powder and of Wigs and when Ruffles and Sedan Chairs still lingered on the scene (which means that the writer in 1901 has had personal descriptions of events in 1790), who had travelled much on the Continent in even those pre-railway days; had Plutarch at her fingers' ends, spoke French and Italian, and was as well

read in the brilliant French literature of the XVIIIth century as she was with Fielding and Smollett and the other English novel writers of that period—which novels, by-the-bye, I used then to hear read out aloud, and coarse as they are in places, they are cleaner in thought than some of the novels written—more is the pity—by women of the present day.

She was then the wife of a well-read, clever, and sporting Parson, George Port by name, a man with a long descent but a not over full treasury, whom she had married as a widow, he being twenty years her junior. Naturally the whole atmosphere was impregnated with cleverness, broadmindedness, and common sense, and with these surroundings I spent the impressionable years of from five to thirteen. Such age attained, there is little doubt that the mould of the future man is fairly complete, and can seldom be permanently altered.

A very few years' experience of the world soon impressed upon me the fact that if a lad had to go out into the world and not shying it with an "anti-this" and an "anti-that," but becoming of it, and joining in its lighter side as well as in its duties, (which a man must do if he wishes to succeed and not be looked on as a milksop), that there was nothing so helpful to keep him straight and prevent him from doing anything he was ashamed of as the love of Home and the true pride in an Ancestral House and in a Family Tradition. I am bound to say that after a life of unusually varied experience, twenty years of which were spent at sea, beginning with the rough and tumble life of a Midshipman on an old Frigate-built East Indian at the age of 14, up to a command in H.M. Queensland Navy; visiting most countries of the world, with all their peoples and their various customs and religious beliefs, I am still of the same opinion.

It is with the hope that the information collected together in the following pages, and which has been a labour of love on my part, may be the means of helping some of the Cadets of my family to have before them the particulars of their Ancestors, and that such may be as helpful as a Sheet Anchor to them, and lead him or her to do the right thing, or what his or her people would approve, when two roads present themselves to the view; one being the foolish one and against the con-

venances of life, and the other being the wise and the honourable one.

To remember that one is a gentleman by birth, and to act up to it, is a valuable asset in helping one through the world. If your lesson is learnt properly you realise that it is manners and not clothes or money that make the man: it teaches you that you can do any kind of work that is necessitated at the time without feeling false shame; and above all it causes, or should cause you to have a delicate respect for the feelings of those whom accident or duty has placed under you, and which in fact is the explanation why the English gentleman is admitted by all nations to be the most perfect leader of men.

One of our most learned Antiquaries has remarked, that if a genealogist turn up in a Family every 100 years, it is quite sufficient to keep the records running and in good order. In the Mogridge family, the Rev. Anthony Mogridge, who died in 1709, was a genealogist, and left some valuable family records: his grandson, the Rev. John Mogridge of Pershore, who died in 1796, continued such records up to his death, and I, his great Grandson, have had access to what they left, and have continued them up to this date with little difficulty.

Of the Hudsons, I believe I am the first one who has taken the matter up seriously, but Richard Hudson I. left ample records to work from, and let me hope that in or about 2000 A.D. some one may turn up to continue this work.

May I crave a large-minded liberality for mistakes, and that criticism may be of the gentlest: I do not presume to any literary ability, but as during my life I have collected a large amount of information in reference to the Family, and as my father, the late George Bengough Hudson (who as a hunting-man knew everybody well around the neighbourhood, from Peer to Peasant), was always good enough to consider me an interested listener to the very ample information his memory contained, I have now embodied it in this Book, so that such information may not die with me, and not pretending, as I say, to any literary effort, I have not presumed to cumber the text with notes of reference, as would be done by a more pretentious work. The information in the earlier part of the Book has been collated from Domesday Book, from the writings of the Antiquarians Camden, Habington and

Nash, from the historian Lingard, and from Miss Strickland, who, living in the neighbourhood, has left her works rich with local information, and from Records in the Rolls Court and the Probate Offices.

To the learned Habington, the greatest Chronicler of our County, I am much indebted, and have copied many of his paragraphs out intact; I have not shown all such extracts by commas, as the language of some clearly earmarks the quotations.

Mr. James Parker, Hon. M.A. Oxon, has been good enough to allow me the advantage of his antiquarian knowledge, in reference chiefly to the first two Chapters of the Book. His help has been of great advantage to me.

I am under a debt of much obligation to my Uncle, Mr. Alfred Ricketts Hudson of Wyke House, who has always placed at my disposal any documents that would help me, and in addition there are many others of the Family and our connections who have been good enough to help me with information; I am sure that in addition to my own personal acknowledgment of such help, they will all receive in due time the thanks of many future Hudsons still unborn.

C. E. MOGRIDGE HUDSON.

RICHMOND-ON-THAMES,
April, 1901.

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CHAPTER I.

The Saxon Period.



I.

WYKE-JUXTA-PERSHORE, now in this the First Year of the XXth Century known as Wick-near-Pershore, County Worcester (spelt all through the XVIth Century "Parshore"), and comprising the Manors of Wyke-Waryn and Wyke-Burnell and part of the Manor of Binholme, takes its name from the Saxon "Wic," which amongst several other meanings stands for "bend in a river"—or perhaps I should say more correctly, for the peninsula of land that is enclosed by a bend in a river. You have only to take a map and draw a slightly curved line from the River Avon under Pensham Banks eastward to the Avon again where it enters Bricklehampton Parish, to see that such line on the south and the River Avon on the north enclose nearly all the lands of the village. It might naturally be assumed that it took its name from the "wich" of the Saxon salt-pans, as King Edgar, in his grant, A.D. 972*, to Pershore Abbey of certain privileges, includes our village and mentions it as having 18 salt-pans. Both names might therefore be the origin of our present Wick; but, as there were several salt-pans in the neighbourhood and therefore called "wich," such as Droitwich, I lean to the derivation of the name from "Wic," as the bend in the river is so marked an one.

Specially rich and fertile as is this part of the vale of Evesham, we are not surprised to find that early in the history of Britain it was chosen as a suitable district by those great pioneers of Agriculture, the learned Benedictines, to settle in. In no part of the country were the houses of this Order so numerous as in this immediate neighbourhood.

Pershore, Evesham, Tewkesbury, Worcester, and Winchcombe were all Benedictine Abbeys; hence arose the old saying, common in my youth amongst our own class and often still to be heard among the villagers of the neighbourhood, "As sure as God's in Gloucester, Sir."

* For this grant see later in this Chapter.

How much civilisation in its widest sense is indebted to the Benedictine Order of monks in the early centuries has not, I think, been generally sufficiently recognised. Even before Edward the Confessor had laid the foundation-stone of Westminster Abbey, this Order, founded by the saintly Benedict, had built 15,075 Abbeys, and had given to the Church 24 Popes and 13,000 Cardinals and Bishops.

To account for its popularity and influence we must realise the state of peoples when the Order was founded. Disorder, insecurity, and rapine lay all around ; but a Benedictine house offered the exact opposite. Therein was found a Community of strictly regular habits, neither quarrelling by force of arms amongst themselves, nor with their neighbours. In addition to their religious duties and their literary work, they reclaimed waste lands, they planted and regulated forests, they farmed, they planted vineyards, they exercised trades, they were good craftsmen, and they taught the ignorant peasants how to do all these things for themselves. With the proceeds of their improved estates they relieved the poor, they tended the sick, and they exercised a generous hospitality to the traveller, not to mention their liberal entertainment of Royalty so frequently mentioned in their records. In addition to this they gave the best of education and were pre-eminently a lettered Order, altogether following out the spirit of their simple motto, "Pax."

Wick having been until quite recent years only a Chapelry of Pershore Church, we must turn to the notices of Pershore for anything we wish to know about the early days of our village.

From the first planting of Christianity here about 700 A.D. until late in the last century we have had to carry our dead the long, weary mile for sepulture in Pershore ; so the connection has been very close, and we need not be sensitive in leaning for our history on Pershore as our Mother Town.

The earliest record that we have of Pershore is in a Charter contained in the Gloucester Cartulary (printed in the Rolls Series, 1888, Vol. I., p. lxxi.), as follows :—

"In the name of our Lord Jesus Christ. At times, amongst many Priests of the Lord and those also in Minor Orders, and even amongst faithful laity themselves, very great quarrelling is wont to arise about

the possessions of lands, either what or to which church such belongs or which should have the greater part. (The Priests referred to here are evidently secular, not regular, Priests.)

"Wherefore I, Ethelred, by the help of God King of the Mercians, have been considering concerning the salvation of my soul and how I could do something in the way of alms towards the honour of Almighty God for ever. Now I grant and give to my two thegns (*ministris*) of noble race in the province of the Huiccii, that is to say to Osrice and to his brother Oswald, in trust, with our leave and consent, a certain portion of land, that is, of 300 tributaries at Gleaweceasore (*sic*) to Osrice, and the other, likewise of '300 cassates' at Pershore (*sic*), that is, that Osrice should receive that 'obe Gleawe-ceasdre' (*sic*), and Oswald also should have Pershore. Afterwards I, Ethelred, King, was asked by the venerable man Osrice aforesaid for my leave to establish monastic buildings and 'life' in that city, and appoint there continually the Cœnobite rule. And so this was done.

"Now this concession was made in the 5th year of Ethelred, King of the Mercians, that is 671st year [it should be 681st year] from our Lord's Incarnation [Ethelred came to the throne 675]. The Archbishop Theodore [668—690] and Saxulf, Bishop [of Litchfield, 675—691], the Mercian people and Synod met in the famous place Ethcealchy [meant for Celacyth] concerning the above matter."

This is the one document on which the early history of Pershore rests, and although Leland and others who follow him conjecture that because Osrice asked to apply his 300 tributaries to found a monastery, that Oswald at Pershore no doubt did the same, but there is no evidence that he did so. Nevertheless, as the 300 cassates at Pershore were given for the benefit of King Ethelred's soul, it is probably fair to assume that if Oswald did not found a monastery at Pershore, he must have built an unusually large church, which, as far as the town of Pershore was concerned from a thriving business point of view, was very much the same. The doubt on this point will, however, give some basis for the view that has been held by some, that the early promotion of Pershore Abbey was due to the efforts of Duke Beornoth ^b.

But the earliest monastery founded in the neighbourhood was the one at Fladbury, which was founded some years before 681 A.D.

With the building at Pershore of the Church or the Abbey that

^b See King Edgar's grant to Pershore in 972, set out later in Chapter.

Oswald founded with his 300 cassates, it was dedicated to SS. Peter and Paul ; but before many years had passed, this centre of devotion suffered from the greater attractions of the Monastery at Evesham, built by and started with all the influence of the Bishop of the Diocese, and with the further advantage of having been founded in consequence of a miracle that was alleged to have taken place there.

Egwin, who was of royal descent, was instituted Bishop of the Wiccians (which included Worcestershire) in 693, and part of his estates lay on the banks of the Avon, where the ruins of Evesham Abbey are still to be seen. "A herdsman of the Bishop, named Eoves, whilst tending the kine on Avon banks at a place called Eovesham, found in a wood a sow that he had lost, she having there farrowed seven pigs, when there appeared to him the blessed Virgin." But let the good Bishop tell his own tale in the Charter of Foundation which is here given :—

"The Charter of Egwin, Bishop of Wiccians of Worcestershire [714], wherein he mentioneth his visions with the foundations and donations of his Monastery of Evesham in the County of Worcester :—

"I, Egwin, the humble Bishop of the Wiccians, will manifest to all the faithful of Christ how, by the inspiration of the Holy Ghost and the labours of many and mighty visions, it was declared to me that I should first found one Monastery to the praise and glory of Almighty God and of His Holy Mother, with all the elect of Christ, and also for mine own eternall reward. When, therefore, King Ethelred reigning, I was most prosperous, I besought of him a place called Ethomme [Æt Homme], where the Holy and perpetuall Virgin Mary appeared first to a certain herdsman named Eoves, and after also haveing with her two virgins and holding a book in her hands. I cleansed therefore the place, and having began the work I did by God's assistance finish it.

"Wherefore I will declare to all succeeding ages what possessions I procured to this sayd place, and how I freed the same lands from all exaccions of all powers, and caused the same freedom to be confirmed by authoritys and priviledges, and also with royal edicts that the brethren serving God there under the rule of St. Bennett might without disturbance lead their lives. I will likewise manifest the names of the Vills, all of which, being free and rightfully obteyned, I have offered to God and St. Mary. I got therefore of King Ethelred a certain religious

house called Flendaburch (Fladbury), which I changed a little while after for another religious house named Streatford (Stratford). After a small time I obtayned of this King's brother, whose name was Oswald, xxtie mansions in a place called Tuiford (by Lenchwick). Afterwards Kenred [704—709], succeeding to his Kingdom, gave me lxxxiiij manses on both sydes of the river named Avon. A certain younge man called Athericus granted me viiiij manses, and Walter, a reverend priest, gave me viij other manses. And so in a short time, by God's assistance, I obtayned for the said Church of Christ a hundred and twenty manses, as is registered and confirmed in the Charters of the Church according as the lands and bounds are manifested in the book which Brihtwald the Archbishop did write and dictate by the command of the Roman Bishop [Pope of Rome] with the consent of the princes of all England.

"And these are truly the names of the Vills which as before is said I compassed: Evesham, Benigwith (Bengeworth), Hantun (Hampton-by-Evesham), Baddeseye (Badsey), Wicque (the Lenches), Humborne (Church Honeybourne), Brotforton (Bretforton), Willersley, Witheleia, Samburne, Kinemerton (Kemerton), Saltford major and minor, Ambresley (Ombersley), Vlbeorge, Morton, Buchtin, Meleigaresbyri (in parish of Stow-on-the-Wold), Sildeswick quoque, Titles-Thorp, Suella Major, Mayeldesbeordi. All these lands (as before I have said), being infranchised from all question of disturbance, I have obtayned and offered to the Church of God.

"Who therefore shall presume to deprave or diminish or contaminate this place, which the Apostolicall dignity and the Kingly power have endowed with royall liberty, and wee, with the authority of God and His holy Apostles, doe herè grant, let him be judged at the Tribunall of Christ, and never come into the memory of Christ unless in this life with pennance he amendeth. But he who shall observe and augment these let him be replenished with blessings. So be it. Amen. This Charter was written in the Year of our Lord's Incarnation 709.

"✠ I, Egwin, have with the sign of the Holy Cross confirmed.

"✠ I, Kenred, King, have subscribed.

"✠ I, Offa, have with the sign of the Cross confirmed.

"✠ I, Brithwaldus, Archbishop, have subscribed.

"✠ I, Oswald, the King's brother, have confirmed."

This grant was later in the same year [714] confirmed by Pope Constantine in the Lateran Church of our Saviour at Rome, there being present Coenred, King of Mercia, and Offa, King of East Saxons, with many Archbishops and Bishops, and Princes and Lords of Kingly Provinces.

It had previously been approved by General Synod of England, presided over by Britwald, Archbishop of Canterbury.

The Arms of Evesham Abbey are :—" Azure a chain coupled in chevron betw. 3 mitres all argent, at the dexter end of the chain a padlock of the last," as is seen in some churches of the Shire. William of Malmsbury, in his book of the Bishops of England, gives the story which in after years suggested the arms, as follows :—

"Bishop Egwin (the founder), to redeem the sins of his youth, locked his legs in fetters, and throwing the key which served for the lock into the water, went thus on a pilgrimage to Rome. Whence returning towards England, as he crossed our narrow seas, a great fish leaped into the Bark wherein he sayled, which being bowled the key of the lock which imprisoned him in these fetters was found in the fishe's intrayls. Wherewith discharging himself of his gyves he hoped that God had forgiven his sins."

Let us hope that the holy and energetic Bishop Egwin lived to a good old age and died in all sanctity: he had founded a great monastery, which was a good that would live after him; but he had also very much improved the value of his Evesham Estates.

To the Abbey of Evesham also belonged Offenham^o, where was once the palace of Offa, King of Mercia, who, together with King Kenred, later in life became cloistered monks and ended their days in Rome as such.

King Offa and King Kenred, who were the chief benefactors for the foundation of Evesham Abbey, in their grant, dated 709, say :—

"Wherefore I Kenred by the bounty of Almighty God King of the Mercians, and I Offa by the divine permission Governor of East Englishe, for the redemption of our souls and the salvation of our predecessors and successors do give and grant in the place wherein the blessed Mary did manifest herself to the venerable Bishop Egwin in Homme, and with this our present Charter do confirm to the honor and reverence of the Mother of God 66 manses on both sides of the river named Avon, that is to say 3 which are in Homme [Evesham], in Lenhcuic [Lenchwick] 1, in

^o At the dissolution of the Monasteries, Henry VIII. granted the Manor of Offenham to Sir Phillip Hoby, from whom it passed away by sale to the Hazlewood family, remaining with them for many generations, as it was still possessed by Mr. James Hazlewood, of Wick House, in 1745, when he commenced to mortgage his Estates at Wick, Bricklehampton, Bengeworth and Offenham.

Norton 7, in Offenham 1, in Litintin [Littleton] 13, in Aldinton 1, in Baddesi 6½, in Bretferton 12, in Honibure 2 and a-half, in Williresei 7, in Wickwona 3, in Benigwith [Bengeworth] and in Hampton [two places adjoining], 9^d."

But to return to our Mother Town of Pershore, or in other words Pershore Abbey—for in these days the history of this religious centre is the history of the Town which gradually grew up around the walls of the Church. We have little knowledge of its history previous to the Xth century; it will have been developing its Estates and joining with or competing against in the grandeur of its Ceremonial Services its close neighbour the Abbey of Evesham, with now and again a change from its usual monotony by having some of the Monks flayed alive and their skins nailed on the Church doors, after the gentle habit of the Pirate Danes when on marauding expeditions, for we find that in 958 A.D. the Town and Monastery were laid waste by these bold but ferocious invaders. However, some half-century later (in 1010) the Danes, after having taken and sacked Oxford, again attacked Pershore, but the townspeople, smarting from the experience of their previous unwelcome visit, rose in a body, defeated the invaders, and saved their town and its Church or Abbey from pillage.

Duke Oddo, of Mercia [ob. 1056], made large contributions to the foundation at Pershore, and during his time a certain Duke Delfere, of robber instincts, having seized many of the Abbey estates and dying shortly after, being eaten up by vermin, it was considered a visitation of God; so Duke Oddo vowed celibacy and became Monk at Deerhurst (just below Tewkesbury), a house that belonged to Pershore Abbey on their large estates there, saying that this would prevent his ever having a son that should be guilty of such sacrilege.

About 910 the relics of St. Eadburgh, the saintly daughter of Edward the Elder, were brought here from Winchester, the

^d I quote this in that Dr. Nash in his History of Worcestershire says that Wickwona, as mentioned in this grant, is Wyke-Warren, but he is here clearly in error, for Wyke-Waryn was a Manor of the Earls of Waryn, who first came over with William the Conqueror; besides, Manors were not created in England until William the

Conqueror granted them to his feudatory lords. This Wickwona is also the Wickwennan mentioned in the re-grant of King Edgar the "peaceable," in 972 A.D., of certain lands to Pershore Abbey, and of course is the whole of our village of Wick. Wick-Waryn is only a portion of the Parish as before shown.

church being then dedicated to St. Mary and St. Eadburgh ; and we find as late as the end of the XVIth century, even after the heavy hand of the religious revolution of that date had lain so long on all Church property, ceremony, and belief, that the memory of this holy English Saint was still green in the mind of Pershore people, for the learned Habington, speaking of Pershore Abbey, then says—

“Here rest some of the bones of Happy Eadburgh, which are instantly celebrated with reverence which she had merited with glory of miracles more often showed in this place than in any other.”

In the latter half of this, the Xth century, St. Dunstan, then Abbot of Glastonbury, was engaged in thoroughly reforming the Monastic Orders from the laziness and weaknesses that unfortunately may accompany the over-accumulation of wealth in a religious body—for a rich Church is generally a corrupt Church—and having done so he then made the Regulars dominant over the Secular Clergy. Later he was made Bishop of Worcester, then Bishop of London, and thereafter Primate of the Southern Archdiocese, in quick succession, by King Edgar, who held him in much esteem.

This King Edgar the “Peaceable,” so called, was a great benefactor of the regular foundations of England in that in the course of a few years he established no less than forty-seven monasteries in place, as he said, “of the monasteries and nunneries which in the days of my ancestors, kings of England, were destroyed and neglected throughout all England.”

No foundation ought to have been more grateful to him than Pershore Abbey, as in 972 he remodelled the house, bringing in the Benedictine rule and re-dedicating the Abbey Church to the Blessed Virgin Mary, to St. Peter and St. Paul, and he re-grants them their old original privileges granted by King Coenulph at the request of Duke Beornoth, and restored their lands.

This original Charter is in the Cottonian collection :—

“King Eadgar’s privileges to Pershore, 972. After a long exordium, beginning *Orthodoxonum vigoris, &c., &c.* :

‘Hence I, Eadgar, by the will of the Almighty, King of the Angles and other nations living around, in order that I may deserve, &c., &c., grant to the famous monastery situated at Perscora, &c. (dedicated to SS. Mary, Peter and Paul), liberties and privileges for ever, just as they

were after the death of Follright, the distinguished abbot, in whose time the restoration of these liberties were granted, whom the whole community of the aforesaid Abbey had elected their Abbot—according to the rule of the blessed Benedict—from the number of the brethren and the aforesaid monastery shall be free from all land service in the same manner as it was contained in the Charter granted at the request of Duke Beornoth, by that most strenuous defender of the Faith, King Coenulf [797—819]. The lands which I have granted are : * In Pershore [erazed] Mansas, in Bricklehampton 10 Mansas, in Comberton 10 Mansas, in Pensham 10 Mansas, in Eckington 16 Mansas, in Birlingham 10 Mansas, in Defford 10 Mansas, in Strensham 10 Mansas, in Besford 10 Mansas, in Croome in Severn Stoke 10 Mansas, in Pirton 10 Mansas, in Wadborough 4 Mansas, in Broughton Hackett 3 Mansas, in Peopleton 10 Mansas, in Grafton Flyford 5 Mansas, in Snodsbury 10 Mansas, in Nauntton 10 Mansas, in Martin Hussingtree 5 Mansas, in Bredon 3 Mansas, in Oldberrow 2 Mansas, in Longdon 30 Mansas, in Powick 7 Mansas, in Acton Beauchamp 3 Mansas, in Upton 40 Mansas, in Broadway 20 Mansas, in *Wicwennan*^f 10 Mansas [this is our village of Wick], and for the purpose of making salt in the place, room for 18 salt-pans (?), in *Middle-wic* 10, and on *Neodeonestan-wic* 8. And a station for two furnaces on *Unictune*, and a salt-pan, which is called *West-ring*, with one manse, and half a manse in the place which is called *Horton*. All to be subject for ever to the same liberty.”

This very clearly shows that not only a monastic foundation, but a very important one at that, had for a long period previously been at Pershore. The site of the Abbey, the Monastery, and grounds occupied at this time about 10 acres, and Pershore Abbey, in its grandeur of ceremonial, and its hospitality and its charity to the poor, would be able to hold its own with its rival at Evesham. This unfortunately was not of long duration, for before three-quarters of a century had passed confiscation was again in the air.

It is not necessary to wait until the Religious Revolution of the XVIth century to find instances of the confiscation of Church lands, for Pershore Abbey in very early years felt the heavy hand

* I have not given anything like the number of places in the charter. I have only given those that we can recognise from the old spelling and that are in the neighbour-

hood, and to these I have given their modern names, except those in italics.

^f It can be only accidental that it approximates to the sound of Wyke-Waryn, see *ante*.

of such unjust acts. Amongst all peoples that have a defined religious system there always has been and there always will be a flow of contributions for charitable purposes and for the advancement of their religion : these are the good works so far superior to the mere assertion of belief, no matter how persistent. Also, as men grow older and the many incentives accompanying youth flicker out one by one, the tendency to make amends, by restitution, for the faults of their younger days looms large in the mind, so the flow of contributions for such purposes is further augmented.

From the reign of Henry VIII. to the middle of the last century is a period of 300 years, chiefly marked in England by being a non-church building age ; and as all religious foundations were during that time under a penal law, these contributions have gone into hospitals, almshouses, and other similar charities. Previously to that the building and founding of religious foundations and of churches was the recognised channel for such contributions.

We find that one of the most beautiful churches in England, St. Mary Redcliffe, with some of the other churches in Bristol, were built by men who had made their money chiefly in slave-dealing and in piracy ; and that saint amongst kings and kingly saint, Edward the Confessor, although failing in his duty on earth by neglecting his wife until she died of a broken heart, still, when concentrating all his energies in the building up of his pet foundation of the Abbey of Westminster, was not quite free from this taint of robbing Peter to pay Paul ; for of all the many religious foundations in England that felt the heavy hand of what in effect was simple confiscation, the Abbot of Pershore was not the least to suffer. We have only to compare the Roll of the Church lands in the Pershore district belonging to each Abbey by the Domesday of William I. with what we know to have been the Roll of the same in the VIIIth century, to realise how much was taken away from the Worcestershire foundations to enrich the new Abbey of Westminster.

The whole of Pershore and the surrounding villages originally belonged to the Abbey of Pershore, but we find by a register of the Bishoprick of Worcester that King Edward the Confessor granted an one-half of Pershore to the Abbot of Westminster, and thus (as Habington says later) " Pershore became divided into three

Manors, Pearshore-Old-Land, Pearshore-New-Land, both which remayned to the Abbot of Pershore, and Pearshore-Porchmouth, which passed to the Monastery of Westminster."

I have found it difficult to arrive at any idea of what district Pearshore-Porchmouth represented, but we may fairly assume that it would be included in the lands that the Dean and Chapter of Westminster hold in Pershore and its ancient chapelrys, and now known as the Manor of Binholme, which we know include some part of Wick and the meadows on the opposite side of the river, pointing to the probable origin of the word "Porchmouth." The Newlands comprising the streets embouching on the Abbey entrance still remain to indicate the old Manor of Pearshore-New-Land.

As King Edward the Confessor had given so much of Pershore to Westminster Abbey, the original church of St. Andrew was then built for the use of the tenants in Pershore. Later it appears, by the Register of the Priory of Worcester, that the Abbots of Pershore were made patrons of St. Andrew's, and such patronage was appropriated to them in that they had had no less than thirty-five manors taken from them.

With the death of Edward the Confessor and the advent of the Norman Conqueror in the middle of the XIth century we come to the valuable information contained in Domesday Book, which throws a much fuller light on our neighbourhood ; but before passing away from the early days it will be well to give the arms of the Abbey, the emblazonment of which helps to perpetuate the memory of the virgin princess St. Eadburgh.

According to Habington, learned in Heraldry, the arms of the Abbey of Pershore are—

"Our blessed Lady sittinge on a throne with our Saviour in her arms, above on her right hand an Angell adoreinge, on the leafte and ouer our Saviour's head a star, on the right hand, below St. Eadburghe, the virgin, on the leafte an angell standinge and offering up a Ringe. Below all this under an arche a Preyst in his Albe, hauinge a beard and a large tonsure and holdinge in his right hand a Challice and in his left a booke open. And written round is 'Sigillam Beatae Mariae et Sanctae Eadburgae Virgines Persoriensis Ecclesiae.'"



CHAPTER II.

The Rise and Fall of Pershore Abbey.



II.

WHEN William, Duke of Normandy, defeated King Harold at Hastings, and so by "force majeure" confirmed his right to succeed his cousin, Edward the Confessor, on the throne of England, one of the last acts [1086] of his reign was to have made a general survey of his kingdom. About half-way up Chancery Lane, on the right-hand side going from the Strand, is a modern stone building, an exemplar of XIXth-century English architecture. This is the Rolls Court, or Record Office; and in a chamber with stone mullioned windows over the main entrance gate you can, if you are so inclined, see under a glass case the original Domesday Book recording this Survey, and compiled in the reign of William the Conqueror.

From the translation of Domesday I take the following^a :—

"The Church of Worcester holds Fledebirie (Fladbury), in demesne are 7 hides and there are 9 ploughs, a Priest with half a hide and 23 villeins and 17 bordars with 19 ploughs; there are 16 serfs and 3 serving women, a mill of ten shillings and twenty sticks of eels and a wood 2 miles long and $\frac{1}{2}$ mile wide."

"Also Cropetorn (Cropthorne) with Neothertune (Netherton), there are 10 serfs, 4 serving women, a mill of ten shillings and 20 sticks of eels."

"The Church of St. Peter's at Westminster holds Persore (Pershore): King Edward held the Manor of and bestowed it in the Church, there are 3 mills."

"In Wicke (Wick-near-Pershore) are 6 hides. There is one plough in demesne and 9 villeins, with 24 bordars, with 12 ploughs, and one serf and a fishery. It is worth £3. Of these 6 hides, Urso has one hide, Gilbert half a hide; Tor and Oswald held it. There is there one plough and 12 bordars, and one serf and one handmaid. It is worth 25s."

^a I have only taken from Domesday the names of those places immediately around Wick and Pershore.

"Also Pendesham (Pensham), Birlingheam (Birlingham), Briestelmestune (Bricklehampton), Depeforde (Defford): in time of King Edward, Alcot a Monk held one hide of this land and did such service as he was commanded."

"Also Beford (Besford), William the Priest holds it of the Abbot and had together with his men one plough and 10 acres of meadow. There is wood half a mile long and three furlongs wide: Nattford (Nafford) has a Priest and plough or cattle. All these aforesaid lands lie to Pershore; in the reign of King Edward this manor rendered Eighty pounds and three shillings and 50 sextaries of honey."

"The Church of St. Mary at Pershore held and still holds the Manor of Pershore itself. There are 26 hides paying geld; adjoining are these berewicks, Chivintone (Chevington), Edbritone (Abberton), Wadberge (Wadborough), Broctune (Broughton), Eobretintine (? Abberton), Wicha (Wick-near-Pershore), Cumbritone (Comberton); of these aforesaid 26 hides the church itself now holds 21; in demesne are 5 ploughs and 24 villeins and 8 bordars with 22 ploughs. There are 7 serfs, a mill of four shillings and half a mill at Pidele (Wyre-Piddle), with ten shillings and 20 sticks of Eels. There are 60 acres of Meadow. Wood a mile long and half a mile wide. In the time of King Edward it was worth 13 pounds, its present value is 12 pounds."

"Azor held some of this land, doing service for it to the Church, and for acknowledgement thereof he gave one entertainment a year to the Monks, it being agreed that after the death of himself and his wife it should revert to the Church. At Wadborough there is a Park, and there is also there a hide of land as pasture for the Monks' cows."

"One Godric, a Thane of King Edward's, bought this for the term of 3 lives, and gave an entertainment once a year to the Monks for acknowledgement thereof. Urso the 3rd heir now holds this land, after whose death it should revert to the Church of St. Mary."

Every Manor is also shown to have its allotment of wood. These were indispensable for supplying fuel, honey, wood, and acorns, mast, or pannage for the multitude of hogs.

The record in Domesday of the property then belonging to the Abbot of Westminster in our immediate neighbourhood is a striking object lesson of how King Edward the Confessor ruthlessly despoiled the Worcestershire religious foundations to enrich his pet foundation at Westminster. Pershore Abbey suffered above all others, for we find at the date of the survey that part of Pershore, part of Wick, Pensham, Birlingham, Defford, Eckington,

Besford, Longdon, Powick, Snodsbury, Martin Hussingtree, Dormston, The Piddles, Naunton Beauchamp, Grafton Flyford, Pirton, Peopleton, Great and Little Comberton, Broughton Hackett, Nafford, and Severn Stoke, no longer owed allegiance to the Abbot and Monks of Pershore, but were in the possession of the new Abbey of Westminster.

The Abbey and Monastery of Pershore was originally built of wood, for which stone was gradually substituted after the different fires. These fires occurred in 1000, in 1223, and again in 1287, when nearly the whole of the town was burnt down.

The choir of the Abbey Church suffered most in the fire of 1223, probably being the earliest part of the building and containing the most wood, and although St. Andrew's Church was so proximate it would have been then a practically new building of stone—as it was rebuilt in 1147—and would not therefore easily catch fire.

Soon after the fire of 1223 Henry III. granted "To God and our Blessed Lady and St. Eadburge of Pershore and the Abbots and Monckes there, a feyre on the Eve and Feast of St. Eadburge (4 May) and on the two days following."

This privilege was granted for the purpose of raising funds to rebuild the choir, so that as this was the latest part of the church to be built it is not surprising that it should be as it is now, very nearly the only part standing.

The Fair was held in the Churchyard, as was the custom of the time. People came from the country around to attend the grand services at the Abbey Church, and after they had attended Mass the rest of the day would be spent in merry-making: the hucksters, the victuallers and the showmen competing to secure the custom of the congregation as they poured out of church.

In 1780, for what reason I do not know, the date of the Fair was altered to the 26th June: but it was still continued in the churchyard, and although it was held there up to so recently, this was an abuse that had in several parts of the country been attempted for centuries to be prevented: as Henry III. by express mandate forbid the Fair to be held in the churchyard of All Saints at Northampton, and in one of the earliest books printed [1493] we find an attack on the license and immorality that these same Churchyard Fairs engendered.

The Fair was continued to be held in the Abbey churchyard up to 1830, when the leading inhabitants of Pershore and the neighbourhood endeavoured to prevent what they considered a yearly scandal by barricading the churchyard gates to keep the Showmen out, whilst inside the churchyard many stalwart men from Pershore and the neighbourhood formed up in a body to protect the sanctity of their graveyard: however, the Showmen and Stall Holders strongly resented this interference with their ancient rights. The street that leads direct to the chief entrance of the churchyard, called Lice Lane [from 'lice,' the Saxon for corpse], but now named Church Street, was crowded with the vans of travelling showmen clamouring for admittance to the churchyard, without avail: but when the Wild Beast Menagerie appeared on the scene, the showman took the Elephant, and fastening it with chains to the churchyard gate, pulled it down with the pillars and part of the wall, and overpowering the protesting inhabitants, held their Fair, as before, amongst the Tombstones.

Soon after this the site of the Fair was by mutual arrangement peaceably removed to the Broad Street. When I was a boy it was still in all its glory, and the sons and daughters of the best people in the neighbourhood were not above going to the Fair and seeing its sights; but the superior fascination that cheap excursions to London and other places offer to the youths and wenches of our country villages supplies now, in their opinion, more exciting and fresher attractions, and so the six days' Fair of Pershore is gradually melting into disuetude, possibly to the comfort of the residents near Broad Street; but most certainly to the loss and detriment of the village girls, to whom the excursion train is not altogether an unmixed blessing.

This grant of Fair and Market contained a very valuable privilege to some of the inhabitants of Pershore, in that every house in the town could during the period of the Fair secure for itself the privilege of selling liquor to be drunk on the premises, by the mere act of erecting outside the house a large Bush or Branch. This ancient rite was abolished by Statute about 1860, but I can well remember seeing it taken advantage of very largely in the Newlands, and in the poorer parts of the town during the six days of the Fair. These houses were called Bush Houses; Shake-

speare, who was a good toper, gives his experience of the custom in his "Good wine requires no Bush."

The Church of St. Andrew, which was first built by Edward the Confessor, and then rebuilt in 1147, was, as we have already seen, intended for the numerous tenants of the Abbot of Westminster in Pershore-Porchmouth. The patronage of this Church was first placed in the gift of the Prior and Monks of Malvern; but in 1241 this patronage was transferred to the Abbot of Pershore.

The Church of St. Andrew lying so close to the Abbey will have been the cause of many clerical heart burnings in reference not only to the valuable burial and stole fees, but from the large legacies coming to the church of interment; this feeling continued on past the Religious Revolution of the XVIth century, as we find as late as the XVIIth Century, that, "in order to show how the Church of St. Andrew is inferior to the Abbey Church of Holy Cross, the Curate and Parishioners of Holy Cross go yearly in Procession in Rogation Week through the Church of St. Andrew." This is a remarkable exemplar of the topsy-turveydom caused by the Dissolution of the Monasteries: in that we have seen, that previous to that period the Vicarage of St. Andrew was in the patronage of the Abbot of Pershore; but with the suppression of the Monastery, the confiscation of its property, and the demolition of the chief part of the Abbey Church, the Vicar of St. Andrew's becomes also Curate-in-charge of the Abbey Church; this remains the exact position at the present time. It is certainly healthy to see the Vicar of St. Andrew's in his position as Curate of the diminished Abbey Church asserting the seniority of the Church of his Curacy over the Church of his Vicariate, showing what was the opinion of both Parson and Laity on the confiscatory Acts of Henry VIII., a century later, and after his daughter, Queen Elizabeth, with the bitterness engendered by her having been born illegitimate, had further harried so many of the most loyal of her subjects by heavily fining them for their "recusancy" in not attending the services of the new faith in their Parish Church.

The list of "Recusant Fines" recorded in the Record Office during the reign of the "Virgin" Queen is painful reading. Under the County of Herts alone we find family after family of county position sold up by the Sheriff, as a result of years of fines amount-

ing in some cases to as much as £1,000 a year levied by the Crown for not attending the Parish Church. Elizabeth, in her business way, asked for no Declaration of Faith, they might believe what they liked; but they must show that they had conformed outwardly by attending the Parish Church. If not! Well! In went the Sheriff for a fine in accordance with their income.

A great change has passed over public opinion during the last three-quarters of a century on this subject of the so-called Reformation. Up to the middle of the last century this Religious Revolution has been studied in this country through the medium of violent prejudices; at every turn the student's conclusions had been dictated to him in advance by the conditions of his own time or the supposed requirements of Protestant orthodoxy. In my boyish days a man of high Oxford degree taught me, bearing on this subject, what any educated man would now blush for his college to hear taught. There is little doubt that this Religious Revolution was from beginning to end an artificial thing. The Medieval Church did not deserve it; the people did not want it; it was unnecessary and for the most part a mischievous event.

The true history of the real causes that eventually led up to this unfortunate Revolution has still to be written, and they probably lie deeper than has up to the present been assumed. The Peasants' War in Germany of 1525-6—an outcome of the misery of the German peasant—provided the initial impetus of revolution. This tending to pull down all lay authority was caught by Luther in his movement against the authority of his ecclesiastical superiors. Then the craft of Tudor Henry, the foolish greed of his courtiers, with the importation of this religious revolutionary tendency from Germany, and certain political accidents, may be pointed to in England as the more immediate causes. Henry VIII. had shaken the ecclesiastical organisation to its foundation by the confiscation of the monastic properties, and the families who now held these lands had no great liking to disgorge them.

Then when Elizabeth came to the throne she was looked upon by all European nations as illegitimate, and several of the reigning sovereigns were furbishing up their title to the English Crown, Philip of Spain fitting out his Armada for the purpose of asserting his claims. All this roused to its very depths the patriotism of

the nation; and even Catholics, forgetting for awhile the cruelty of Queen Elizabeth's religious persecutions, rallied with their fellow-countrymen around her, the general feeling being that in the Queen's person was to be found the one bulwark against the hated foreigner sitting on our English throne.

To what lengths the country went to prevent all possibility of this foreign succession is manifest in 13 Elizabeth, Chap. I. By this somewhat profligate statute, passed by Parliament and assented to by our "Virgin" Queen—as the English historians are so fond of calling her—it was enacted that, as Elizabeth was not married, the crown should pass to any natural issue that she might have; and by the same statute it was made high treason for any one to deny the legitimacy of such succession.

These are assuredly some of the initial causes of this great Revolution, rather than the moral and intellectual working in the minds of the people so often assumed. An uprising of the people to demand it, it certainly was not. The difficulty in the consecration of Matthew Parker, the cruel ousting of the old clergy, the fines of the Recusants, and the channel into which the proceeds of the sales of the properties of the dissolved Monasteries went, clearly show this.

Taking the central date of this Religious Revolution as 1550, can any one honestly say that the 300 years from then to 1850 contained more charity, more deep religious feeling, more kindness and less of wrong than the 300 years preceding from 1250 to 1550?

As to what the effects of this huge transfer of real estate and in many cases tithes from ecclesiastical to lay hands, and the alteration in the Church services on the home life of the people were, it may be an open question; but it is the admitted opinion of all men of the present time, whose minds are open and whose opinions are worth having, that it not only put back the literary and artistic work of the country for a good 200 years, but it was the means of ruthlessly destroying priceless and never-to-be-restored collections of literature, works of art, and magnificent buildings, the outcome of the diligent study, the careful guarding, and the creative mind of those who had lived within the Monasteries of England.

The Feast Days of the Calendar were the public feasts of the

parishes ; each small village had its chief merry-making or wake, chiefly on the yearly returning Feast Day of the Patron Saint of its church, and the towns that had grown up round the monastic foundations had, as became their greater dignity, a Charter for a Fair of many days' duration, just as the one at Pershore, and which was generally held in the churchyard. Pershore Abbey Church is a good exemplification of this. The only part now left standing was originally the choir, especially reserved for the clergy, and only a small portion of the entire church. This choir is now sufficient to accommodate with ease the church-goers of Pershore town, but in the time I am writing about the population of the town was much less than now, and a large part of the inhabitants had the church of St. Andrew and another church for their daily use ; obviously, therefore, the Abbey Church of St. Mary and St. Eadburge was for the use of the inhabitants in the whole surrounding neighbourhood, who on Festivals and other great days of the Church would flock to its services, and so tend gradually to increase the importance and the size of the town that would grow up around the Monastery.

CHAPTER III.

The Church Estates.



III.

WE have seen how ruthlessly not only the patronage of so many local Churches, but in many cases real Estate, had been taken from the Abbot of Pershore to enrich other foundations; but it is very noticeable how the Abbey Church managed to retain the sole right of burying, and its accompanying revenue.

The Church of St. Andrew, although we know that of recent years it had power of burial, had not, as late as the middle of the XVIIth century, been granted that right, although it was always endeavouring to wrench such privilege from the Abbey Church. At one time it carried its endeavours so far as to defiantly bury in its chancel the body of Edmund Hanford, of Wollas Hall, Nafford, in which Parish Wollas Hall was then, being similarly with St. Andrew's, under the Abbey of Westminster. The Abbot of Pershore took the matter into the Diocesan Court at Worcester, and applied for authority to get the body exhumed and buried in the Abbey Church, and the Bishop of Worcester so ordered it to be removed; but, after much intercession on the part of the Incumbent of St. Andrew's, the Bishop ultimately varied his order by deciding that Mr. Hanford's body should be left to lie there in peace, but further burials in St. Andrew's were prohibited. This was in 1579, and if there is not now, there used to be a stone in the chancel with this inscription—"Edmund Hanford gen. sepultus An. Do. 1579."

Our village of Wick, as we know, did not bury in Wick until further burials were forbidden in Pershore churchyards and Pershore cemetery was opened: when, of course, the Vicar of Pershore would receive no further benefit from burial fees.

Bricklehampton had no rights of burial, and had to bring its dead the three long miles to Pershore.

Pinvin in those days, although graced with a chapel for service, had no privilege of burial other than at Pershore: even the far distant parish of Martin-Hussingtree, some eight miles off, had to pay the tribute to its Mother Church of Pershore of bringing

its dead parishioners all the way to the Abbey for sepulture. One is not inclined to wonder, therefore, why the street leading up to the chief entrance to the Abbey churchyards, now called Church Street, was from an early date named Lice Lane, "lice" being the Saxon for corpse.

The right of burying appertaining to Pershore Abbey was of course a source of large revenue to the Monastery funds, not only from the ordinary burial fees, but from the mortuary donations from the people. We have a record from the Archives of Worcester Diocese that illustrates very clearly the monetary value that lay in these special rights that some Churches had in the Burial of the Dead: for, in the fire that occurred to the Church and Abbey Buildings of Pershore in either 1223 or 1287, the Abbey records appear to have been destroyed, upon which a Diocesan Commission was held to ascertain the property. Walter, the Prior of the Abbey, said that the Pope had granted the Monastery certain privileges: that, when the Bishop of Worcester came to Pershore to ordain, he first went to the Chapel of St. Andrew, and then being invited, came to the Monastery; likewise, that when the first Bishop was so invited by the Abbot and Convent to say Mass at the feast of St. Eadburge, that being shown their privileges, he straightway restored the oblations which he was preparing to carry away with him; and also, that the Abbot of Pershore at Synod always sat on the Bishop's right hand. The Prior also said that the bodies of all those who held land in Pershore, Pensham, Pinvin, Besford, Defford, Woodmancote, Birlingham, Wick, Bricklehampton, Eckington, Strensham, Wollershill, Nafford, Pirton, Stoke, Naunton, Little and Great Comberton, Peopleton, Piddle, Flavel, Broughton, Upton Snodsbury, and several other Parishes, were to be buried in the Abbey of Pershore; and as to the Wills of such persons, the principal legacy might be carried before the body into Pershore Abbey Church for valuation, one-half of which was to go to the Abbey: but the bodies of the deceased may be first carried to their own chapel for Mass to be said, the oblations for same belonging to the Chaplains; however, Wick, St. Andrew-in-Pershore, Bricklehampton, Pensham, Burlingham, and Nafford, did not have this last privilege. He also said in reference to Tythe, that one half of the common Tythe of the whole of Pershore (except that of the demesne of the Abbot

of Westminster) belonged to him, and that half of the Tythe of corn of both the Freemen and the Villeins at Wick did always belong to him: likewise of Bricklehampton, Pensham, Great Comberton, and Peopleton.

This plain outspoken view of the Church generally, and of the Monastic Foundations particularly of this period, has an unpleasant sound to our modern ears; but it must be borne in mind that there were then no Workhouses, few Hospitals, or Lay Charitable Institutions, and that the Monasteries took upon their shoulders the responsibility of supplying all these wants, which they did, until the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII., when the necessity for all these institutions at once arose. It must also be remembered that it was to this universal feeling deep down in the hearts of the whole nation to do something handsome for Mother Church, that we owe the magnificent collection of Gothic Churches, which can be nowhere found in such profusion and with such beauty as they are in England, our immediate neighbourhood being well able to boast of its fair share of such buildings.

Nothing strikes the observant traveller more than that Gothic is the dominant characteristic in English Church Architecture. On a cursory view it may appear as if that an entirely new school of Master Builders had arisen to design the magnificent Fanes of England, but there is little doubt that this is not so. To visit the Mahomedan Mosques of Northern Africa and then to travel in Spain and see the exquisite refinement of architectural design that the Moors left on the Peninsula, after they were driven out from their long occupation of it, is to realise how much Christianity is indebted to the Moorish designers for much that is beautiful. The architecture of Western Christendom was not the work of ancestorless and isolated geniuses, but of a widespread brotherhood, clerical and lay; self-governed and protected by the Church from local Trade laws and municipal interference, and thence called 'Mark Masons.' They were a connecting chain between the ancient classical architecture of the old civilisation and the Renaissance. This powerful guild of Sculptor-Builders kept alive, through ages of barbarism and of fire and sword, their great traditions, and in the golden age of building covered Europe with

enduring structures. They carried on from father to son, and from master to pupil, the traditions, the designs and general principles of Church Building, and they were indebted as much to the Moorish as to the Grecian and Egyptian fountains of design, as they passed northwards and built churches suitable to their surroundings. They shared the toils and dangers of the Missionary Monks, some of them coming to England with St. Augustine, and building at Canterbury and elsewhere.

For their buildings in England they possibly borrowed more from the Moors than they did from ancient Greece. The Arabs did not build high, they built wide. A Mosque as one walks amongst its pillars does not seem like a Church at all, but rather a city of arcades and alcoves, and the strength of design seems all to run to the delicacy in tracing of its exquisite tracery of design; but, as these designers passed further into the rainy and darker North, their flat, single-storied designs passed into the steep roof, the ogival arch, and strong buttress, to the aspiring upward, heavenward, soaring line, with the long, large windows to admit light, culminating in the exquisite spire, which in no part of Europe can be seen to such perfection as in England. I would mention of local Parish Churches the spires of Bredon and of Sedgeberrow, and of Cathedrals, that gem, Salisbury spire.

We have seen how large an inflow of funds there will have been to the Abbey of Pershore from privilege of granting burial; its income will also have been derived from tithe and from the revenues of various Manors that it owned. I will now set down a few of the Parishes in the immediate neighbourhood, that in the XIVth century owed spiritual allegiance to the Abbey of Westminster.

There was first of all the church of St. Andrew in Pershore, and also the church of St. Michael in the same town, now no more existing, and of which we seem to have no trace. Then there was our village Chapel-of-Ease at Wick, which was chapel to and in the manor of Wyke Waryn. Bricklehampton, Pinvin, Defford, Besford, Pirton, Peopleton, Great Comberton, Little Comberton, Eckington and Pensham (although it had no chapel) were under the Abbey of Westminster. There was also the old church of Nafford on the side of Bredon Hill, which was also

a manor of some importance amongst the holdings of Westminster, as at great ceremonies its Lord attended on the Abbot of Westminster as his Chief Lord.

As to real estate, the Abbot and Monks of Westminster also held the important manor of Binholme, in which was included, as a sub-manor, the manor of Pershore Porchmouth. This manor of Binholme contained a goodly portion of the lands in Pershore, nearly the whole of Pensham, a part of Wick, and a small acreage in Pinvin and Eckington *.

These, of course, are only a very small portion of the large holdings of the Abbey of Westminster in our county of Worcester. The rest of such holdings can be pretty well ear-marked at the present time as those which are now held of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, the body now representing the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, who, at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, were handed over the estates and patronage of the Abbots and Monks of St. Mary, Westminster.

The Bishop of Worcester also held some of the livings in the neighbourhood, sandwiched in between the lands of Pershore, Evesham, and Westminster, videlicet:—

There was the church of Cropthorne, with the chapel of Nether-ton (in ruins 1620); also Wyre Piddle belonged to the Worcester Bishops. Then there was Overbury, which we have seen was in 700 A.D. included in the land given to Evesham Abbey; but, later, the church of Overbury, with its outlying chapelries of Teddington, Alston, and Washbourne (all three lying in county Gloucester) were granted to the Bishop of Worcester for the maintenance of two monks in their studies at Oxford.

Overbury (*i.e.*, over a hill) will probably have taken its name from the fact of lying as it did over Bredon Hill, both from Evesham, to which Abbey it was first granted, and also from Worcester.

The Abbot of Pershore had the Lordship of many manors in the county, of which I will mention a few that lie in our neighbourhood.

Aberton (temp. Ed. I. written Aldbriton), was a manor of Pershore Abbey, and retained by them right up to a late date,

* A fuller account of this Manor is given in Chapter V.

as we find in 1539, almost instantly before the Dissolution of the Monasteries by Henry VIII., that a lease of the manor was granted (by John, Bishop of Poletton, the last Abbot of Pershore) with the Convent, to Rafe Sheldon, Esquire, of the Leete Laweday and Court Baron within their Lordship of Aberton, Upton Snodsbury, and Collisdon, with all penalties, &c. ; also the patronage of Aberton. The Abbot evidently saw that confiscation was drawing near, and took care that Henry VIII. should not get more value than he could help, as we find that "The Abbot and Convent do also covenant that Mr. Sheldon may cut down and carry awaye all the great Tymber trees on the property ; and they also grant him a lease for fourscore years."

Broadway also was a manor of which the Abbot of Pershore was Lord, and he had a farm there celebrated for its greatness. According to Habington, Broadway in the XVIth century was very much like Broadway now. He describes it as "The Broad and highe waye from the Shepherdes coates which on the mounted wolds shelter themselves under hylles from the rage of storms down to the most fruitful Vale of Evesham, or rather of England, is a towne extended in a streete tedyous in lengthe expecially in winter."

This manor, at the Dissolution, was granted by the Crown to William Babington, a cousin to Anthony Babington, who lived at Wick House and who sold it to Mr. Rafe Sheldon, as mentioned before. From him it passed to the old family of Savage, of Elmley Castle, who sold it to Sir Thomas Coventry, Baron of Alsborough and Keeper of the Great Seal.

At this time (temp. Ed. I.) the Bishop of Worcester held the manor of Bredon, which was his country house. Worcester Priory held, amongst others, the manors of Overbury, Cropthorne, Nether-ton, and Sedgeberrow. Evesham Abbey held, with others, the manors of Benjeworth, Hampton, Badsey, Aldington, Ombersley, Norton and Offenham.

The Abbey of Pershore also held, in Worcester, St. Peter's Church and Whittingham Chapel. It also held Wadborough, with the Chapels of Wyke Waryn, Bricklehampton and Pinvin.

Then there was Nafford Church, which occupied a site somewhere above the Mansion at Wollas Hill. If I am not mistaken, and my memory does not play me false, it was some distance

up the hill above this mansion, and the stones from the old ruins were brought down in 1899 to build the two cottages at the corner of the road on the north side half-way between Wollas Hall and Comberton Hill. There is no certainty that this church belonged to Pershore Abbey, but it was specially dedicated to St. Catherine as presumably being a similar site to the church on the Mountain of Sinai, where that Saint's body, after her martyrdom, was understood to be carried by angels.

But Nafford Church, to where the Chapelry of Birlingham originally owed allegiance, was in ruins by the XVIth century; and now the tables have turned and Birlingham is a parish church, and Nafford, without a church, is a hamlet of Eckington, although on the opposite side of the Avon.

Then, in the town of Pershore itself, there were, as previously mentioned, two other churches besides the Abbey Church that owed allegiance to the Abbot of Pershore.

Although the Abbey of Pershore held many other churches in the hundred of Pershore, these that I have mentioned are the only ones in the immediate neighbourhood, for, although so many in close proximity to Pershore were then, and are now, under Pershore, they are subject (as will be shown later) to the Vicar of St. Andrew's, which church has always been an appanage of Westminster Abbey.

But in addition to the various churches and chapels in Pershore and outside of it owing allegiance to Pershore Abbey, the Abbot of Pershore had granted to him and his convent by Henry III. (Charter 4th May, 11 Henry III.) Free Warren in Peareshore, Sey, Mathon, Alderminster, Stow, Broadway, Cowleigh, Hawkesbury, and Wanberge, a somewhat extensive sporting domain, and which must have been a valuable property to the Convent, as there were severe penalties for poaching in the same. King Edward II., reciting the Charter of King Henry III. and King John (father of King Henry), which "discharged the Abbot of Peareshore and all his Convent with all their lands in the Counties of Worcester and Gloucester from all incumbrances and exactions, &c., &c.," confirmed the same. So these monarchs evidently attempted in some manner to compensate the Abbot of Pershore and his monks for the confiscating tendencies of Edward, King, Saint, Confessor, and founder of the Abbey of Westminster.

D

At the Dissolution of the monasteries the revenue of Pershore Abbey was estimated at £666 13s. Of the Abbots who ruled there I may say that Foldbrith was the first Abbot, and John Stonewall (so called from a hamlet in Longdon, co. Stafford) the last; he was first a monk at Pershore, then was sent to Gloucester Hall, Oxford, where the Abbey had a cell for Novices; he was afterwards D.D. and Prior of that College, and in 1529 was elected Abbot of Pershore and Suffragan Bishop of Poletton.

He appears to have bowed as gracefully as he could in the interests of his Abbey to the assumption of power by Henry VIII., for on the 20th August, 1534, he, with the Prior, Sub-Prior, and 18 of the monks, subscribed to the King's supremacy, although this did not satisfy the greed of the pleasure-loving King, for soon after Henry dissolved the Monastery as a foundation and appropriated the property. King Henry seems to have dealt more gently with the Abbot than was his custom, for he granted him a pension for life of £160 a year, and to the other monks a pension each of about £7 per annum. Abbot Stonewall then retired to his native village of Longdon, where he had a private chapel. He died in 1553, after attaining a great age, and bequeathed all his books, vestments, and the silver of his private chapel to the parish church of St. James, at Longdon.

Of this grand Benedictine Abbey at Pershore all that now remains is the old Choir, the South Transept, and Lantern Tower, which is very much the same as it was left after the demolishers of Henry VIII. had satiated themselves with their unholy work—or rather, it should be said, stayed their hand from further demolition on receipt of the £400 which the people of Pershore subscribed to buy what was left of the church. Fortunately, with the fabric of the church there remained the exquisite peal of bells that for tone is unequalled in the neighbourhood.

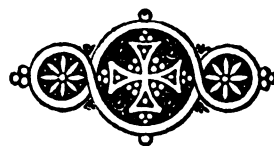
From the time of the Dissolution, when the greater part of the Abbey was demolished, up to the middle of the last century, nothing seems to have been done except to build, in 1586, the buttress to the north side of the tower, which would have felt the loss of the support to it of the Chapter House and other Abbey buildings, which had recently been demolished, and which lay on the north side of the Abbey Church. In 1846 the present meagre and shallow sanctuary was built on a part of the site

of the old Lady Chapel demolished in the XVIth century ; and in 1862 the church was fully "restored," the inside of the Lantern Tower thrown open, and the four small turrets on the tower "pinnacled" under the direction of Sir Gilbert Scott.

The use of the churchyard of Pershore Abbey as a graveyard was discontinued in 1875, and, as in the cases of most old churches, the building itself is the burial-place of many persons of position, Richard Hudson, of Wick House, lord of the manors of Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell, being the last but one to be buried there in February, 1850.

The first remains to be buried in the church were the relics of the holy Princess St. Eadburgh, which were translated from (I think) Winchester and buried in the chapel called after her, which lay on the south side of the choir, and east of and against the south transept. The last person to be buried inside the Abbey walls was Frances Mary, the mother of the writer, and the wife of George Bengough Hudson, of Wick, and she was buried in the south transept, in the Mogridge Vault that was built by her grandfather, the Rev. John Mogridge, Vicar of Pershore, and that had been filled up with Mogridges except one place that had been retained for her uncle, the late Lieutenant Edward Mogridge, but he gracefully gave his niece "Place aux Dames" in the family vault.

Of the Abbey buildings little trace remains, but the site of the Abbot's house is occupied by the house of Lieutenant-Colonel Alfred Henry Hudson, J.P., only son of Alfred Ricketts Hudson, Esquire, of Wick House. The house, which is called "the Abbey," is built on the ancient monastic cellarage, and the pleasure running up to and around the old Abbey Church has an old-world look worthy of the spot, and most picturesque.



CHAPTER IV.

Wlkewane, or Wlcwennan.



IV.

THE last Abbot of Pershore, as we have seen, was John, Bishop of Poletton, who saw his Monastery dissolved by Henry VIII., the monks dispersed, and the buildings demolished.

In 1545 the King finally completed his act of despoliation at Pershore by transferring the Abbey, its lands, and its privilege of Fair and Market Tolls in Pershore into lay hands; as in that year he—in consideration of a certain sum paid down—granted to William Sheldon and Francis Sheldon all the rights in the Market Tolls of Pershore and in the Fair, which had up till then been the property of the Abbots and monks of Pershore. King Henry also granted to them the site of the Monastery, with its vineyard and the Manors of Pershore-Old-Land, Pershore-New-Land and Abbots-Wood in Wadborough, with all the privileges and liberties of these Manors.

In 1562 the Manors of Pershore-Old-Land and Pershore-New-Land passed from the Sheldons to Conan Richardson, descending from him to John Richardson, his son and heir, and from him fell to Conan Richardson, the nephew of John. This Conan Richardson in 1598 sold the two Manors of Old and New Pershore (Old-Land and New-Land) to Mr. George French, and we find them in 1770 as belonging to Sir George Sebright.

To Mr. George French, strange to say, also belonged in 1630 the Abbey Church of Holy Cross, which name the old Church of St. Mary and St. Eadburgh had borne since 1534. Possibly it was the French family (who were the leading people in Pershore at this time) that had found the £400 which was paid to Henry VIII. to buy what is now left of the old Abbey Church. This family of French were of very old standing in the neighbourhood, as we find that long before the question of the spoliation of Church lands could have been thought of, namely, in the time of Edward IV. (1461-83), that they owned land in the town and fields of Pershore, Aldsborough, Wick-near-Pershore, and in the Manor of Binholme. When I say owned lands, I should perhaps more

properly say, that they held parts of their lands under the Manors mentioned, as the situation of some of their Estates clearly show. Certain of these lands are [deed dated 1574] granted by William French to Conan Richardson, father of John Richardson. Robert French, father of this William French, had, as eldest son, Edward French, who married Susan Savage^a, and they had issue a son, George, whom, as we have previously seen, held in 1630 the Church of Holy Cross with the Manors of Old and New Pershore.

Of the other ancient families of Pershore we find Hareley, a Knight of the Crusades, and who received his name in all probability from a place called Hareley, in the parish of Pershore. He has a monument in the Abbey, and there being no arms, it presumably dates from a time when arms were not in common use. Then there are the Vampages, one of which family, Sir John Vampage, of Pershore, knight, has his name in the Church; their heirs were the Harewell family, once of Besford, and also Francis Hanford of Woollas Hall, J.P., co. Worcester. There are also the names of Thomas Acton^b, the Stoultons, the Cosnetts, and the Bigges.

Pershore and its neighbourhood having so many families of position living generation after generation with this grand Abbey in their midst, one would naturally expect to see a wealth of stained-glass windows, some containing the emblazonment of the arms of the many benefactors of the Church, but all that the Church now contains is comparatively modern.

Henry the much married had no antipathy to the Church generally, to its teaching, or to its customs, all his acts of spoliation and confiscation were simply to raise cash to supply the extravagances that he indulged in; but a century after him came the cold destroying hand of the Puritan gang, who hated everything that indicated gentle blood and aristocratic position with possibly even a greater hatred than they did the churches, the works of art that they contained, and the high literary ability that they were partly an indication of. Pershore unfortunately stood on the main roads and in a well-known part of the midland coun-

^a This family of Savages of Elmley Castle were also recipients for a consideration from Henry VIII. of many other confiscated Church lands.

^b One of the Actons of Wolverton, the very oldest family now existing in the neighbourhood, as they were on the same ground before the Norman invasion.

ties, and it suffered from these gloomy gossellers much more severely than churches that were situated in more isolated places away from the chief arterial roads.

Although there is little trace of any of these arms at present, there were as late as the year 1630, in the first and highest north window of the Choir of the Abbey Church, the following achievements :—

1. Beauchamp—Gules, a fesse betw. 6 crosslets Or.
2. Warwick—Checky Or and Az. a chevron Ermine, and both impaling,
3. Clare—Or, 3 Chevrons Gules, quartering,
4. Le Despencer—Quarterly Ar. and Gu. frettie Or ; over all a bendlet Sa.

In the third window :—

5. Vampage—Az. an Eagle displayed within a single flor-rettee Ar.

In the fourth window :—

6. Russell—Ar. a Chevron betw. 3 Crosse Crossletts botomee fichee Sa.

In the fourth window :—

7. Attwood—Gules, a Lion queue furchee Ar.

There was also a monument tomb to Fowlke Hazlewood, the one who bought the manor of Wike Burnell from Sir Walter Raleigh, to whom it was granted by Queen Elizabeth after it had been confiscated from Anthony Babington ; but of this monument no trace, so far as I am aware, at present remains.

The chief monument now remaining in the church is the quaint one erected in 1720 to Sir Thomas Hazlewood, of Wick House, his wife, and the numerous children that had predeceased them, of which further particulars are given in Chapter IX.

Let us now turn from the town of Pershore, its monastery and its church, to our village of Wick, comprising within its boundaries the manors of Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell, and part of the manor of Binholme.

We first identify it long before the Conquest, and consequently before the period of manors, as “Wikewane.”

The religious enthusiasm aroused by the monastery just being built at Evesham, on the summit of the ground sloping up to the westward from the right bank of the Avon near to the spot where Evesham Tower now stands, caused a generous flow of donations to the coffers of that Abbey for the purpose of increasing the buildings and for the support of the numerous clergy required to carry on its daily services. Offa, as King of the East Saxons, and also Coenred [Kenred], King of Mercia, jointly granted in 709 A.D. to Bishop Egwin, for his new monastery, some 66 farms lying along the fertile banks of the Avon. Seven of these farms represented the Saxon village of "Wikewane" (just across the gentle running Avon from Pershore), now our village of Wick.

At this date, and for several centuries afterwards, the rich alluvial lands on both banks of the Avon represented the only portion that was settled on and cultivated in the neighbourhood, as lying to the north of these settled lands was the extensive forest of Feckenham, and to the south were the woods of Bredon Hill, infested with wolves, and which extended from the hill towards Wikewane as far about as where runs now the Evesham and Pershore road.

For two centuries and a half from this date we find little reference to our village. It was merely a hamlet or small appanage of the town of Pershore, a collection of villeins or serfs under their thane or lord; but, unfortunately for the inhabitants, although their village was small, its land was fruitful, and lying as it did in the direct road from Oxford to the wealthy church settlements of Evesham and Pershore, it felt from time to time the heavy hand of the marauding Danes. But, in the latter part of the Xth century, King Edgar the Peaceable, who took a great interest in the religious foundations of his kingdom, and was employed in what one may call rounding up their temporal holdings—and, with the help of his bishops, their spiritual jurisdiction—recognised the inconsistency of the Abbot of Evesham owning property close up to the walls of Pershore Abbey, so re-granted our village of Wick, with its (now) 10 farms, and other neighbouring villages, to the Abbot and monks of Pershore^c.

Not many years had to pass by before the conveyancers had

^c For this grant, which was in 972, see Chapter I.

to be again busy over our little village, but this time not the whole, but only a part, changed owners. Edward the Confessor, in 1050, was engaged in building his magnificent Abbey at Westminster. A good work for the possible eternal benefit of his soul, for the certain gratification of his self-esteem during his short stay here, to cover his body when he was dead, and to carry down to posterity the remembrance of his several-sided life; and as his funds ran out and donations sufficient did not flow in, he confiscated a portion—in the case of Pershore Abbey a very large portion—of the estates of the provincial foundations for his new foundation at Westminster.

Henry VIII. stole our Worcestershire church lands to make his life pleasant on earth. Edward the Confessor also stole some of our Worcestershire church lands to smooth his way in the hereafter. The two objects that it was wished to attain were widely different, but was there any difference in the immorality of the act of confiscation?

However, part of Wick, with other property in the neighbourhood, was granted to the Abbot and monks of Westminster, and most of it, or its money equivalent on enfranchisement, has remained with that foundation to this day; for, although at the Dissolution of the Monasteries it passed to the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and during the last half-century it has been vested in the Ecclesiastical Commissioners, still the recipients of the income have always been the owners, for the time being, of Westminster Abbey.

Domesday [1080] marks a well-recognised epoch in the records of our country, as from that date we have well-kept civil records to refer to as to the ownership of real estate, instead of having, as previously, to rely nearly entirely on ecclesiastical records.

Edward the Confessor, whose mother was Emma of Normandy, had forced many Norman customs on the English, causing a good deal of dissatisfaction; but it was William of Normandy who brought over with him and adapted in England, with some few alterations, the French feudal system of manors, in place of the more communal and democratic Saxon system, that had existed up to that time; therefore, at the period of Domesday a good part of England had been divided up amongst the new Norman owners, and the Survey uses the term "manor" very freely in

describing the various estates ; whether they be estates remaining in the hands of their original owners (the Saxon thanes, under the old tenure), or estates confiscated by right of conquest, granted to the followers of the Conqueror and held of him as the chief lord, for it must be remembered that as Norman-French, from the advent of the Conqueror, was made the official language of the country, the word "manor" was used in Domesday in many instances to describe a certain thing existing in the days of Edward the Confessor.

The Manor as we know it now did not therefore exist in England previous to the accession of William I. to the Crown of this country [1066].

Before passing from this period of Saxon days it will be well to note the manner in which the land was divided for the purpose of cultivation in our village of Wikewane or Wicwennan. There would be the Thane—or, if he lived elsewhere, his steward representing him—as the over-lord, and the serfs, whose cots would cluster round the house of the Thane. Each serf, according to his industry or his means, would hold a portion of, or one or more "yard-lands;" and the Thane would possess his larger share, which would be cultivated by the serfs, with also the help of his household slaves.

It is difficult for the present generation, so used to seeing our neatly-fenced enclosures with each small farm, lying generally in a ring fence, to realise the system of the division of village lands at this period of Saxon days. When we read of a "yard land" or its Latin equivalent, a "virgate," we naturally assume that it represented a certain measurement of land lying in one piece, but this was far from being so.

The cultivated land of the village was marked off, for the purpose of identification, into large fields ; but each of these fields was subdivided again into long strips, the length being generally ten times the width, consisting of about one acre, which were commonly called "balks," these balks having between them strips of unploughed land. The headlands were common to all these balks, and the unfortunate owner of these headlands had to wait until the rest had finished turning their ploughs on his headland balk before he could cultivate it.

A "yard-land" averaged thirty of these strips or balks. They need not necessarily—in fact they seldom did—lie together, but

were spread over the different fields, and in different parts of each field. Even the Thane's holding of arable land would consist of a number of these balks distributed about in like manner, although of course he would have a certain amount of grass land around his house, called the Thane's "Inland."

This subdivision of land into one-acre balks was not only the custom in England in Saxon days, but it was common to the whole of Europe, and recent researches in India show it to have been the custom there.

When the side of a hill was cultivated the strips did not go up and down, but along and around the hill side, and as they then only ploughed one way, the plough returning empty, the hill side in time became terraced in steps. These strips were called "Linches." They may be often seen on the Sussex downs, having been laid down to grass as they were. South Dorset has also some good examples, of which I would mention those on the east side of Osmington Common, on your right as you pass over the brook bounding Upton Farm when going along the latter road from Ringstead to Osmington ; also on the east side of Spring Bottom Hill, just above the spring that lies in the Bottom that the hill takes its name from.

The farm lands held by the Saxon farmers in our village were of three kinds. First there were the arable lands, held as I have described. Then there were the rich meadow lands—land marked off to each holder for mowing purposes, the rest of the year being common of pasture, of which we have a similar example at the present day in Pershore big meadow and Kempsey Ham. Then there were the poorer and outlying lands, commonable all the year round, of which many examples will occur as existing at the present time.

When tenure by manors was introduced into England by the Conqueror, the holding and the division was very little altered from what it was in Saxon days, the chief differences of the tenure being that it created a more military and landed aristocracy ; but the difference between the Thane and his Inland, his serfs and his slaves, and the Lord of the Manor and his Demesne lands, his vassals and cottiers, was of little moment. The principle of a village community, owing certain duties and allegiance to the overlord, each person cultivating a holding of his own with more or less freedom,

and all joining to render certain services to the lord, was common to both periods.

The tenure by manors, however, is so much—even at the present time—the bed-rock of all title to real estate, that I think a brief epitome of such tenure may be useful.

CHAPTER V.

Norman-French Manors.



V.

MANORS are a form of land tenure that was unknown to the Anglo-Saxons. They are a part of the feudal system brought over from France by William of Normandy, where they had existed for some time in very much the same form. They were therefore established in this country during the XIth and XIIth centuries by William I. and his successors on the throne.

The essential principle of manors under the feudal system was to establish, as between the lord or the grantor and the vassal or the grantee, a relation of a personal character.

The lord, in effect, granted his vassal the use of the land, or, as it was called, conferred upon him a "fief" (we now call it a fee) in return for certain services. These services at first chiefly consisted of military assistance ; but later, as the country became more settled, they were commuted into a money payment with other liabilities, such as assisting the lord in the expense of making his son a knight or in finding a marriage portion for his daughter. The ceremony of conferring a "fief," or fee, upon a vassal consisted of homage, fealty, and investiture. For the homage he placed his hands, kneeling, between those of his lord (much as a graduate at Oxford takes his degree), and swore fealty.

The Investiture was the actual putting in possession of the land, or the doing so symbolically by handing over a stick, or a stone, or a piece of earth, &c.

At the present day many of the tribes in Central Africa and in Polynesia, who have no written language, hold their lands for life of the chief, and the system of investiture is nearly similar, the boundary being defined in much the same manner as we beat a parish boundary here.

There were also a number of other privileges accruing to the lord. The tenant's heirs might fail, or he might be attainted or made an outlaw, in which case his lands were forfeited to the lord.

The lord had also the custody of the infant heir and also of the lands, without having to account for the profits, during minority. He had also the right of disposing of the infant wards in matrimony, over which he generally made a good round sum. There was also his rights of co-hemphy, which custom still holds good in many of the highly-populated countries of Asia, an outcome possibly of which is the system of descent in those parts where the man inherits but his heirship is always traced through the woman. For example, a man's heir is not his son by any of his wives, but his sister's son ; and if it is necessary to go a generation further back, the man's heir would be his mother's sister's son, and so on. Nowhere in the world are they so proud of their unblemished descent as in these countries.

All manors were first held of the king ; but as many of these were extensive grants, the king's vassals soon found it convenient to re-grant fees to be held of themselves as lord of the manor, called "subinfeudation," and it was under this system that the numerous manors all over the country, held from subjects of the Crown (such as Wyke Waryn, Wike Burnell, Upton Waryn, &c.), and named after the grantors, arose. However, this system of subinfeudation increased to such an extent, and so much to the detriment of the chief lord, the King, that in 1290 an Act was passed called the statute of "*Quia emptores*," ostensibly for the purpose of enabling every vassal holding a fee to dispose of it without the consent of his lord, which was not able previously to be done ; but although it granted this valuable right to the vassals, it at the same time finally prevented subinfeudation, and so we have before us the clear fact that no new manors have been created since the year 1290.

In tracing the date of the creation of manors held of a lord other than the King, we therefore know that it must have been between the accession of William I. in 1066 and the passing of this statute in 1290.

Although the tenure of the land was altered by the incoming of manors, the division of the holdings continued the same. The unit of arable land still remained the one-acre balk or linche, some being copyhold, some being freehold ; and as it was necessary for each lord to have so many freeholders to compose his Court, these freeholds would tend to increase, although we find that

the lord sometimes borrowed a few freeholders from a neighbouring manor to satisfy this requirement. These strips were continually changing hands from one to another of the vassals or falling back into the lord's hands, for if the proper heriot was not forthcoming at the death of a vassal the lord would retain one or more of the balks out of the new land before passing over the possessions, or he would take some as a fine in accordance with his rights, in case that the tenant left the manor without the lord's consent or married without his leave, or their daughters lost their chastity. This holding of balks continued up into recent centuries: in the rich lands of Worcestershire it disappeared earlier, but in some parts of England it remained up to quite recently. Hitchin, in Hertfordshire, has from the time of Edward the Confessor been a royal manor, and customs have continued. The map of the township in 1816 gives a large part of the parish still divided up into these narrow one-acre balks, with strips of unploughed turf between them.

Domesday being written in Latin, calls our village of Wikewane, or Wickwennan, by the name of "Wicha," and it tells us what most of the villages round Pershore held in the way of meadow, of wood (for fuel and honey), of ploughs, of villeins or farm servants, or serving wenches, of mills to grind the corn, of "sticks" to catch eels, and of priests to look after them all.

Churches and priests were scarce: there was then no church at Wick, although there were churches at Fladbury, at Besford, and at Nafford. Wick then, as now, had no mill of its own. Pershore owned both sides of the Avon, and kept the three mills it had in its own hands; but Wyre Piddle had its mill, so had Cropthorne, each having 20 sticks of eels. Although close to the important village of Fladbury, Cropthorne, with its hamlet of Netherton, was passing rich, in that it had 10 serfs, 4 serving women, and a mill of 10 shillings, in addition to the 20 sticks of eels already mentioned. Also Wadborough in these early days owned a park, possibly the local *villegiatura* of the Abbot of Pershore, for in addition there was a hide of land to graze thereon the monks' cows.

BINHOLME.

Any one who has lived for some years in Pershore parish or its hamlets has probably found it to their convenience to hold

accommodation land of the extensive church lands in this neighbourhood, and they will always have found that they held of the manor of Binholme a manor of St. Mary at Westminster. I have often been asked, Where is the manor of Binholme?

We have already seen in Chap. I. that the whole of the lands in Pershore and the surrounding villages originally belonged to the Abbot and monks of Pershore, but that King Edward the Confessor, of sainted memory, confiscated pretty well one-half of Pershore for his new abbey church of St. Mary's at Westminster, and that then the manors of Pershore Oldland and Pershore Newland remained with the Abbot of Pershore, but Pershore-Porchmouth thereafter belonged to the Abbot of Westminster.

In addition to Pershore-Porchmouth Manor there was much more land that was confiscated to Westminster, and as the tenure by manors permitted the manor to comprise several sub-manors, and as, further, although the Abbot of Westminster held so much land in Pershore, he could not with any decent grace use the name of Pershore for the land he had confiscated from the town which practically was the Abbey, for it would not have sounded well to have had the three manors of Pershore Oldland, Pershore Newland, and Pershore Confiscated-land in the same parish; it was therefore necessary for the lord of the manor, the Abbot of Westminster, to devise some other name for his manor, which evidently he did by calling it the Manor of Binholme.

Now I have never met any one in Worcestershire who knew where Binholme was, and also I have, with their kind permission, questioned the officials at the office of the Ecclesiastical Commissioners (the present lords of the manor, and where the manor rolls lie), with a like result. Most courteously, however, they put all the Binholme manor rolls and some of the maps at my disposal. From a study of the same I am convinced in my own mind that Binholme is no other than Pensham. Binholme, with its Norman sound, is just what one would expect from the lords resident close to the Norman Court at Westminster. They would have nothing to say to the "tuns" and the "hams" of Saxon origin; but the tenants in Worcestershire would conservatively stick to their old name of Pens-ham, so that in time the name as continued in the Westminster records and the name as used on the spot would retain their difference in spelling, and the common origin of the same would be forgotten.

The greater contains the less, so the large manor of Binholme now contains the smaller manor of Pershore-Porchmouth.

A glance at the map of the manor of Binholme, as it existed, say, in 1820, clearly illustrates that, excluding the outlying lands of the manor at Wick, Pensham represents about the central point of the manor lands.

It included pretty well the whole area of the hamlet of Pensham, and some of its outlying lands lay at Wick, chiefly south of the village. It had also outlying lands in Pinvin, and some in Eckington. It comprised the best part of the parish of St. Andrew, Pershore, on the northern side of the Avon, where it was represented (with the exception of a few small enfranchised plots) by the triangle roughly bounded on the west by Besford Brook, on the south-east side by the Tewkesbury road and by Hedge Lane, and on the north-east side by the road from Besford Bridge to Long Hedge Lane. With the exception of Pershore Common Meadow, it included most of the land between Spring Lane and the Avon, not running quite up to Pershore High Street, but some 50 yards short of that, so that the late Mr. William Malins' house and the others adjoining have the boundary cutting their premises in two pieces, in a north and south direction.

On the map of the manor of the date, say, 1800, is marked the Old Manor House, also the New Manor House. The Old Manor House was in Pershore High Street, on the east side. It was just a little north of the street where Batchelor's Entry runs into it. Batchelor's Entry is not, as might be supposed, so called from its being the resort of bachelors, but it is so named from an owner of the surrounding property some 200 years ago, who was a connection of the Hudsons. This Old Manor House had a strip of land running down to the Avon, evidently for right-of-road purposes, as it was the only holding of the Manor of Binholme on that side of the street. There can be little doubt that it is now represented by the house belonging to the Gandertons, a family who have held a most respectable position in Pershore during the whole of the last century.

I am not aware if this house is still called Manor House, but I do not think it is. There is another house opposite to Pershore Mill which is called the Manor House, but that is a modern christening: it has no justification to so call itself any more than a great number of the so-called manor houses of suburban mush-

room growth that have sprung up through the successful trading of the last 100 years.

The Manor Courts were held in the old Manor House in Pershore High Street until a little after 1700, when thereafter they were held in what the Manor Rolls describe as the New Manor House at Pensham.

The New Manor House is the old red-brick house at Pensham, with two wings running out on each side of the entrance door, as was common custom. This house would have been built about 1700, but as the lord of the manor was non-resident it would have suffered from the uncertainty and change of tenants. In my young days, though of course not kept up, it had the appearance of a fine old house. I understand that within the last twenty years it has been pulled down; nevertheless, by the latest maps of the Manor Rolls it is marked as the manor house of the ecclesiastical manor of Binholme, an exemplar of the disadvantages of a non-resident lord. This house took the place of a mansion that had previously existed there, for in 1683 the old Worcestershire family of Baugh had been resident there for over a hundred years; and Grace, the sister of Edmund Baugh (the one living there in 1683), married one of the old family of French at Pershore.

Throughout the best part of the XVIIIth century the Courts Baron were held at the Manor House at Pensham, excepting in the year 1777, when it was held at Wyke House, clearly for the greater convenience of handing over to Richard Hudson I. the lands in Wick of the manor of Binholme, which he had recently purchased an estate in, in addition to the freehold property he had purchased. At this Court the Rolls mention the surrender of lands at Wick by Bernard Wilson, and the grant of them forthwith to Richard Hudson, of Wyke House, then of the age of 33.

Why the earlier manor should have been called Pershore-Porchmouth it is difficult to say, but I think I see a glimmer of light in the fact that, coming up the Avon from the sea when you enter Pershore parish, the Porchmouth manor lands lie on each side of you on Avon banks.

Binholme Manor was extinguished as far as copyholds were concerned on 8th September, 1873; for the eighty years previous to that the Courts were held at Pershore.

CHAPTER VI.

The Wick Manors.



VI.

WILLIAM of Normandy not only brought the feudal system into England, but he supplied most of the first lords to the manors he created on the land that he had confiscated. He also created the office of High Sheriff. One of his first appointments was to create Urso D'Abitot, a great Norman noble in his train, to be Hereditary High Sheriff of Worcestershire. Urso D'Abitot was the first of the Normans whom our village of Wick had the pleasure of welcoming for their Squire, as in temp. 1080 he owned Wick, the Combertons, Elmley, and the whole of Bredon Hill, including its southern slope. He also held Birlingham, Besford, part of Fladbury, Wyre Piddle, and other large holdings in Worcestershire, of which I may mention Croome D'Abitot and Red Marley D'Abitot.

The arms of Urso D'Abitot were "a Bear argent, passant, with a Collar and Chain Or," which may be found in many churches of the shire. Until recently it was in the highest south window of the chancel of Grafton Flyford church. Naunton Beauchamp, a property which descended to the Beauchamps through one of that family marrying the daughter of Urso D'Abitot, carries on every corner of its turreted church steeple the Chained Bear, the badge of the fierce High Sheriff, who was so dreaded in the county that it is related the King, to frighten any offender, would say, "Give him to the Bear." Urso D'Abitot ruled the county from his castle in Worcester Town, which was his chief seat.

At the death of Urso D'Abitot, his only son having predeceased him, his great estate descended to his daughter Emmeline, who had married Walter de Beauchamp; and the Beauchamp position being so much enhanced by the large estates coming to him with the Lady Emmeline, King Henry I. confirmed to Walter de Beauchamp the Hereditary Shrievalty of Worcestershire, and advanced him to the title of Earl of Warwick. He for some time continued Worcester Castle as his official residence, but when, in the trouble-

some times of King Stephen, this castle fell, he erected a castle at Elmley on some of the D'Abitot property, and the Beauchamps thereafter, as long as they were Hereditary High Sheriffs of Worcestershire, made this their official seat to govern the county from. This Shrievalty continued hereditary in the Beauchamp family until 1471, they being made Barons of Elmley Castle as well as Earls of Warwick. After that date the position of High Sheriff was an annual appointment.

Elmley-sub-castro (or "Under the Castle Walls") became a place of much importance in very early years, it being the residence of the greatest Baron in the county. The first Earl of Warwick at Elmley Castle erected there a Chantry of eight Chaplains and four Clerks "for the good of his own soul and the souls of his ancestors," and he endowed it with £26 a year out of the portion of his property that lay in our village of Wick. This being insufficient, he also granted them the advowson of the parish church of Elmley.

Elmley Castle remained in the Warwick family for many centuries, but on the attainder of Lord Warwick by Henry VIII., the King granted the castle, the church, and the lay property in the neighbourhood that he had confiscated, to Christopher Savage, who was one of the Esquires of his body. Christopher Savage was descended from the family of Trench, who had owned land in Wick, in Pershore, in Aldsbrough, and in Binholme, for many generations, and who we find by the Exchequer Records (temp. Ed. IV.) sold them to some other family. The property remained in the Savage family until Thomas Savage died in 1742 without male issue, his daughters having been married, one to Thomas Coventry, the other to William Byrche, LL.D., Chancellor of Worcester, the son of the latter again assuming the name and arms of Savage; but he, also dying without issue, left the estates to his widow Dorothy and to other relatives, one of whom was Thomas Perrott, of the same family as George Perrott, Baron of the Exchequer, who bought estates in the neighbourhood towards the end of the XVIIIth century and built Craycombe House, Fladbury (1780—1786). Edmund Thomas Wigley Perrott (son of the late Edmund Thomas Perrott, of Craycombe House, J.P.), heir of this family, married Louisa, daughter of Benjamin Smith, of Carnarvon, and niece of Mrs. Henry Hudson, of Upper Wick

House (see Smith pedigree). The Savage family built Middle Hill House, Broadway, in 1770. I well remember the last descendant of these Savages, Mr. Richard Clavering Savage, living for some months of the year, with the simplicity of a small yeoman, at a farm house, part of the old Savage estates, at Kersoe, beyond Elmley ; but he always drove a smart old-fashioned yellow chariot with red wheels, with an exceptional pair of horses. He was also a well-known man about Town, where I often saw him in the sixties, but always driving the same smart turn-out. The omnibus drivers all called him "Cranky Savage."

I have said that Urso D'Abitot, the first Hereditary High Sheriff of Worcestershire, owned land at Wick, but of course not all, as during his life the manor of Wyke Waryn was created, and was only a portion of the present parish.

The Waryns continued for a lengthy time in possession of this manor, as is shown later in the brief account of it ; but on the death of Urso D'Abitot his estate at Wick would pass into the hands of Walter de Beauchamp by right of his wife. This was the property round about Wick House that was soon after created a manor of the Burnell family as "Wike Burnell," and which passed at the end of the XIIIth century back into the hands of the Beauchamps.

The history of Wick village from this date for several centuries is the history of the two manors of Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell, for although the manor of Binholme then, as now, covered a part of the parish, they were only outlying lands, and the manor house was elsewhere. Besides, Binholme was a manor of the Abbey of Westminster, with, of necessity, always an absentee lord.

ROLL

OF THE LORDS OF THE MANORS OF WIKE BURNELL AND OF WYKE WARYN.

WIKE BURNELL.

Richard Burnell, ob. 1189
 |
 Hugo Burnell, ob. 1242.
 |
 Robert Burnell, ob. 1269.
 |
 Hugh Burnell, ob. 1287.
 |
 Sir Phillip Burnell, ob. 1287, at whose
 death the manor passed to
 |
 Walter Beauchamp, and from whom
 it passed about 1300 to
 |
 The Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick, re-
 maining with them for several generations
 until it passed from Richard Beauchamp,
 Earl of Warwick, about 1375, to his third
 daughter and co-heiress,
 |
 Elizabeth Beauchamp, from whom it passed
 by right of marriage (*temp.* 1390) to
 her husband,
 |
 Lord Latimer, son of the Earl of West-
 moreland, passing after him through
 three successive heirs to the title and
 estates, from the last of whom,
 |
 Lord Latimer, it passed (*temp.* 1500) to
 |
 John, Lord Latimer, his son, the eldest of
 thirteen children, who on his marriage
 in 1534, settled it as a marriage dower
 upon his wife,
 |
 Katherine Parr, at whose death in 1548
 it went to
 |
 Sir Anthony Kington, and from him it
 descended to
 |

WYKE WARYN.

William de Waryn, who came
 over with the Conqueror,
 was created by him Earl
 Waryn, Earl of Surrey, and
 Baron Lewes; was ap-
 pointed Lord Lieutenant
 of the Western Marches
 [ob. 1090], and was suc-
 ceeded by his son,
 |
 William de Waryn, second
 Earl of Surrey, at whose
 death it was enjoyed in
 succession by several of
 his descendants until we
 find
 |
 William de Waryn there in
 1270, and it passes to
 his son,
 |
 William de Waryn, who was
 there resident (*temp.* 1300),
 and from whose descend-
 ants it passed to
 |
 The Earls of Warwick, from
 whom it descended in
 1490 to
 |
 Richard Neville, of Beau-
 champ Court, co. Warwick,
 and from whom
 |

ROLL (*continued*).

<p>Anthony Babbington, on whose execution [1586] it escheated to the Crown, and was granted by Queen Elizabeth to her favourite</p>	<p>Edward Hazlewood, of Offenham, purchased it (<i>temp.</i> 1550), and at his death it descended to his son,</p>
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|

Sir Walter Raleigh, who sold it to

|

Fowlke Hazlewood, who had married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Babbington of Coddington, a relative of Anthony Babbington, and he therefore held both the Wick manors, and at his death, about 1600, they descended to his son,

|

Thomas Hazlewood, from whom both manors descended to his son, Francis Hazlewood, who was also of Wyke House, and was High Sheriff of the County, 1663; at his death they passed to his son,

|

Sir Thomas Hazlewood, of Wyke House, who was High Sheriff, Worcestershire, 1682, and to whom the monument with the children in Pershore Abbey was built in memory of; he died 1720, and the manors passed to his son,

|

Thomas Hazlewood, of Wyke House, who died in 1732, and was buried at Offenham. They then passed to his son,

|

James Hazlewood, who squandered his patrimony, and first mortgaged and subsequently sold them in 1745, as also his other estates at Bricklehampton, Bengeworth, and Offenham, to

|

The Rev. Bernard Wilson, of Newark-upon-Trent, D.D., and he dying in 1772, the two manors were sold in January, 1776, to

|

Richard Hudson, of Wyke House, Esquire, J.P., co. Worcester; he was four times placed on the panel for High Sheriff, viz. in 1782, 1784, 1786 and 1789, and dying in 1804 the two manors passed to his eldest son,

|

Richard Hudson, of Wyke House, Esquire, J.P., and upon his death in 1850 they passed to his only son,

|

Richard Hudson, of Wyke House, Esquire, whose enjoyment of the ancient manors was even much shorter in duration than that of the earlier Lord, James Hazlewood, and dying in London in 1854 the two manors were purchased by the nephew of his father: videlicet:—

|

Alfred Ricketts Hudson, of Wyke House, Esquire, who is now lord of the manors of Wike Burnell and of Wyke Waryn, having purchased them July, 1850, about five months after the death of Richard Hudson II., and may he long enjoy them.

MANOR OF WYKE WARYN.

William de Waryn, one of the most powerful knights in the army of William of Normandy, was a trusted follower of the Conqueror; so much so, that when the latter was crowned King of England, as William I., he created William de Waryn Earl Waryn, Earl of Surrey, and Baron of Lewes, and gave him to wife his own daughter Gundreda.

Dispute will ever rage around the question of the legitimacy of Gundreda, but the weight of evidence shows her born of Matilda of Flanders before William, Duke of Normandy openly married that lady. Whether before or after the well-known rolling of Matilda by her irate lover in the streets of Bruges, history sayeth not; but the law of any European country that had any law worth speaking of at that period was, that subsequent marriage legitimized pre-nuptial issue of the parents. It is still the law of Scotland and of most Christian countries; the departure from this rule in England is a comparatively modern innovation.

However, William the Conqueror granted to Earl Waryn large estates in Worcestershire, and made him his Lieutenant, or Lord of the Western Marches. William de Waryn, first Earl of Surrey, died in 1090—his wife, Gundreda, having died five years earlier—and was succeeded by his son, William de Waryn, as second Earl of Surrey, at whose death the bulk of his Worcestershire estates passed to his daughter and heiress Gundreda, who married Roger, Earl of Warwick.

The Waryn arms, like all very ancient ones, simple in the extreme, are: "Checky or and azure." These arms are identical with those of Vermandoit in France, and as William de Waryn, second Earl of Surrey, married Isabel, daughter of Hugh, Earl of Vermandoit, the origin of the arms is obvious.

Although I speak of a person carrying such and such arms at this time, it must be borne in mind that Heraldry, as representing the emblazonment of arms in any systematic form, did not come in until about 1260; and so, when persons living earlier than that are credited with arms, it must be understood that these have been attached to them by their descendants as representing as nearly as possible the knightly badges that they were during their life in the habit of using.

These arms may be seen in the churches at Upton Warren,

Spetchley, Hadzor, Hartlebury, Inkborough, and many other churches in the county; and where we find the Waryn arms we generally find the arms of Beauchamp, who, as Earls of Warwick, came into the bulk of the estates of the Waryn family.

William Fitz Waryn, of Upton Waryn and of Wyke Waryn, was High Sheriff in 1229.

In about 1270 we find William Fitz Waryn living at his Manor House of Wyke Waryn, and by the Exchequer Records, 1300 [28 Ed. I.], his son, William de Waryn, is lord of the manors of Wyke Waryn, of Upton Waryn, and of Hadzor.

Upton Waryn belonged to Urso D'Abitot, Hereditary High Sheriff, then to the Beauchamps, and after that to Fitz Waryn, lord of the manor of Wyke Waryn. The Record [28 Ed. I.] of the perambulation of Feckenham Forest, in reference to Upton Waryn, also says: "William, son of Waryn of Wyke, held Hadzor and other lands, and his habitation was at Wyke Waryn by Pearshore."

In Worcester Cathedral is buried a countess, wife of Waryn, Earl of Surrey. In 1311 Waryn, the then lord of the manor of Upton Waryn, presents two of his Waryn relatives consecutively to the incumbency of Upton Waryn.

The Chafy-Chafys, of Rouse Lench, who are one of the very oldest of Devonshire families, have Waryn blood in their veins, through one of their ancestors, Sir Phillip Corbyn, and they quarter the Waryn arms. George Warren, Lord de Tabley, also the Warrens of the Towers, Market Drayton, Staff., also the Warrens of Worting House, Hants, claim descent from Sir Edward de Warren, of Boynton, who died 1558, and who was descended from William, Earl of Waryn, and first Earl of Surrey.

The manor of Wyke Waryn passed, by marriage (temp. 1400), to the Earls of Warwick, and having been in that family, and attached to that title for about three generations, it went in 1490 to Richard Neville, of Beauchamp Court, co. Warwick, from whom it was purchased (temp. 1550) by Edward Hazlewood, who later purchasing from Sir Walter Raleigh the recently-escheated manor of Wike Burnell, with its manor house (the present Wyke House) and its demesne lands, he became lord of both the manors of Wyke Waryn and of Wike Burnell, and they have so remained under the one lord up to the present time.

MANOR OF WIKE BURNELL.

The family of Burnell were as ancient in the county of Worcester as the Waryns, and, similarly with them, came over to England from Normandy in the army of the Conqueror.

I am not aware of their name being mentioned in his army, as we find the De Waryns were; but then De Waryn was closely allied by marriage with William I., and so would be more likely to be mentioned by the pen of the Historian. Both families held large estates in Worcestershire granted them by William, but the position of the Burnells did not equal that of the Waryns, who were the King's military representative in the western marches.

One of their manors in the neighbourhood was Acton Burnell, where the head of the family lived from the Conquest to the reign of Henry V.* In 1283 Edward I. held one of his Parliaments at Acton Burnell. The building in which it was held was standing in 1780: it had walls three feet thick, and was at that date used as a barn.

Sukeley was from early years one of the Burnell lordships. In 1347 (Book of Tenures, 20 Ed. III.), Athelina, the widow of Edwardus de Burnell, held five hides in Sukeley which she inherited from her husband, and in 1364 she dies seized of the manor of Sukeley (37 Ed. III.), which was ancient demesne; but she only had a life interest in the property, for at her death it passed to another of the family—probably her husband's nephew, as in 1383 (Records 6 Richard III.) he dies as Sir Nicholas Burnell, knight, seized of the same manor, and his son, Sir Hugh Burnell, is declared to be his next heir. This Sir Hugh Burnell died in 1422, and left his manor of Sukeley, where he had resided, to his daughter Marjery and her issue by Edmundus, the son of Sir Walter Hungerford. We also find in 1429 (Book of Knights' Fees, 7 Henry VI.) that Chevalier Edmundus Hungerford has the manor of Sukeley in right of his wife, the heiress of Sir Hugh Burnell, and that Athelina Burnell once enjoyed these lands.

Sir Hugh Burnell, Baron of Westleigh, in right of his wife Joyce, daughter and heiress of Lord Botetourt, held the manors of Old Swinford and Cradley (9 Henry IV.), and he presented to the living of Old Swinford 10th August, 1401. He, by will

* Robert Burnell was Secretary to the wife of Edward I.

dated 2nd October, 1418, bequeaths his body to Halesowen Abbey Church, to be buried under a tomb of alabaster near the body of his wife Joyce. Two hundred years since this tomb had already been broken up, and it lay on a green field by the site of the Abbey.

John, Lord de Botetourt, who died 1386, was also seized of the manor of Northfield and the castle of Wely, the ancient lands of Somery, Baron of Dudley. These lands also were held by Sir Hugh Burnell in right of his wife Joyce.

The Burnells also held property in Hanley William, or Ower Hanley, and Dodingtree. Robert Burnell, Bishop of Bath, who died 1292, left lands in this parish and in Sukeley to his next heir, who was Phillip Burnell; and he dying, the next year they passed on to Edward Burnell, who died without male issue in 1313.

In 1349 Sir John Burnell, knight, presented to the church of Broughton Hackett.

In Broughton Hackett church are (or were in 1650) the original arms of Burnell, viz., "Argent, a lion ramp. sa." (The family of le Despenser quarters the same arms.)

These arms must have been emblazoned here before the long controversy between the Lord Burnell and the Lord Morley as to who should wear them; in the end it being decided by the Earl Marshal that the Lord Morley should wear them as here set out, and that the Lord Burnell should wear them differenced with a "Border Azure."

The Lord Morley of 1650 carried these arms; he and the Burnells were descended from a common ancestor.

This Morley is not the same family as Lord Morley of the present day, which is of course quite a recent creation.

In Worcester Cathedral, in the south aisle of Our Lady's Chapel, we find in one of the windows the arms of Burnell; but here they are properly differenced with the 'Border Azure.'

The Burnell arms are also, as might be expected, in Sukeley church.

We now fortunately have not much to fear for the destruction of what stained glass remains in English churches, but it requires very little antiquarian study to realise the wanton and enormous destruction of stained-glass windows that went on in the XVIIth century under the Puritan zeal of Cromwell, and—in sorrow be it said—also later under the reign of the imported Hollander

who shared the bed and the crown of Queen Mary of England as William and Mary. In our own county of Worcester we have Habington, deeply versed in heraldry and fully imbued with veneration for the ecclesiastical buildings of his country, giving a list of the magnificent stained-glass windows as they stood in 1590; and then we have Dr. Nash's work to show what little remained in 1790.

The date of the creation of the manor of Wike Burnell is not known. We are aware that the Burnells were made grants of land in Worcestershire, and in ordinary course the manors would be sub-divided amongst different branches of the family; but in that the manor of Wike Burnell finally passed out of the Burnell family in 1287, it was probably created early in the XIIth century. We find it held by the following:—

Richard Burnell, who died 1189;

Hugo Burnell, who died 1242;

Robert Burnell, who died 1269;

Hugh Burnell, who died 1287; and

Phillip Burnell, who only enjoyed it one year, dying also in 1287; but at his death it passed to Walter Beauchamp, who is recorded (28 Ed. I.) as holding the manor in 1300.

Sir Phillip Burnell, who last held the manor, had large woods at Flyford Flavel in Feckenham Forest adjoining, appertaining to his manor of Wike Burnell, and when the manor passed over to Walter Beauchamp these woods went with it.

From Walter Beauchamp the manor passed to his relatives, the Earls of Warwick. At the death of Richard Beauchamp, Earl of Warwick, the manor of Wike Burnell, with Comberton, Wadborough, and other estates in the neighbourhood, went to Elizabeth Beauchamp, the third daughter and a co-heiress of the Earl, and on this lady marrying Lord Latimer, fifth son of Ralph Neville, Earl of Westmoreland, by his wife Joanna Beaufort, daughter of John of Gaunt, Duke of Lancaster, he became lord of the manor in right of his wife. Lord Latimer and his wife Elizabeth, although owning the manor, chiefly resided at their stately family mansion of Snape Hall, in Yorkshire.

The manor was held by three Lord Latimers, son, grandson, and great-grandson of the above Lord Latimer and Elizabeth his wife. This last Lord Latimer, the third in descent, had 13 chil-

dren. Of them, John, who afterwards became Lord Latimer, married in 1534, for his third wife, Katherine Parr, then in her teens, she having been left a widow at the age of 15 by the death of her first husband, Edward, Lord Borough of Gainsborough, who had died in 1528 at a most mature age.

On Lord Latimer's marriage with Katherine he settled on her as a marriage dower the manors of Wike Burnell, of Comberton, and others in the neighbourhood. Katherine Parr, now Katherine Latimer, came with her husband to live at Wick within twelve months of her marriage, and they made Wyke House, which was the manor house of Wike Burnell, their residence for several years.

From 1534 to 1548 Katherine Parr was lady of the manor, but at her death in the latter year Wike Burnell went to Sir Anthony Kington, passing from him to Anthony Babington; but he being mixed up in the movements of the Catholics against Henry VIII., on his execution it escheated to the Crown, then held by the virgin queen Elizabeth, who granted it to her favourite, the bold sailor, Sir Walter Raleigh, who then sold it to Fowlke Hazlewood, whose wife Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Babington, was a relative of the executed man.

Fowlke Hazlewood was at the time of purchase lord of the manor of Wyke Waryn; so both lordships thenceforward concentrated in his person, he residing at Wyke House, the manor house of Wike Burnell.

One branch of the Burnell family was settled for some centuries in Devonshire. John Burnell of this family, of Great Cocktree, South Tawton, in the county, had a daughter and heiress, Katherine, who married William Wyke, of Northwyke, in Devonshire, and they had four sons. The son Roger abandoned his paternal for his maternal arms, and wore the coat of Burnell of Cocktree, "Argent, three barnacles sable differenced with a chevron ermine."

C. Worthy, in his "Devonshire Wills" (London, 1896), mentions that the Brittons, of Bitton, co. Gloucester, were a very old settled family, and, living at Bitton, held (1384) property in Tewkesbury and other parts of Gloucestershire.

John Britton, of Bitton, married Jane Burnell at Bitton church, 26th June, 1571, and they were living at Bitton Court in 1620.



CHAPTER VII.

With early Boundaries.



VII.

FROM the early days of the Norman dynasty in England all the property in our village of Wick either owed allegiance to the manors of Wyke Waryn or Wike Burnell, or the ecclesiastical manor of Binholme, and it paid tithe to Pershore Abbey. This division continued right up to the reign of Henry VIII.; but at the Dissolution of the Monasteries (a period that saw the greatest transference of real estate in England since the Conquest), although Westminster Abbey, from the influence it would wield by its near proximity to the Court, and also from its greater standing as being the mausoleum of our English sovereigns, managed to retain its land in the neighbourhood, even after having been dissolved as a monastic foundation, the lands belonging to the Abbot and monks of Pershore, and also the whole of their tithe was confiscated to the Crown and sold into lay hands.

I am not aware that the Abbot and monks of Pershore Abbey at the date of its dissolution actually held land in Wick: but they were the owners of valuable tithe spread over the greater part of the hamlet of Wick: Mary-Brook, the watercourse on the southern boundary of the village, marking where the rights to tithes by St. Mary and St. Eadburgh terminated.

The Hudsons of Wick, although the tithe had passed to them by purchase, and more than one owner stood between them and the great original confiscator, still cannot be said to possess quite lily-white hands in reference to these church estates, in that for many years they did, and in a certain measure they do still, enjoy the possession of this ancient charge on the produce of the land which had been in the main originally created by the donations of the faithful for the good of the Church and for the relief of the poor.

When the village was enclosed and the award was made for that purpose in 1807, this tithe that had originally belonged to Pershore Abbey, but which then belonged to the Hudson family,

was abolished, and an allotment of land in a ring-fence was made to the owners of the tithe in lieu of same.

Thomas Hudson's one-third share of his father's estate, with the exception of the upper part of Wick Park, and on which later he built Avon Bank, consisted nearly entirely of tithe, as no less than 131 acres, in fact the greater portion of the whole Avon Bank Estate, was granted him by the Commissioners of the award as an equivalent for his abolished tithe.

Richard Hudson, his elder brother, had also in his possession a large income from tithe, and he was granted in lieu of the same about 107 acres in the east part of the parish, north of the Evesham Road, and adjoining Bricklehampton parish: the acreage of this is less, but I should estimate the value of this tithe to be more than his brother Thomas's, in that the land allotted to him was so much more valuable per acre than the land allotted to Thomas Hudson.

I do not think we can take more than an academic exception to the lay holder of tithe in the XVIIth century: he is not like the first purchaser of the same at the Dissolution. That gentleman knew he was more or less a receiver of stolen goods, and paid a proportionately low price for his uncertain title; also that at least he was helping to despoil an institution that had held good in this country for at least 800 years; that had gained the respect and veneration of his ancestors. If he did happen to disapprove of the views of the receiver of the tithe at that period, certainly the funds were originally intended for religious purposes, and to extend charity of some kind, and had no business to be in the enjoyment of any one for lay purposes. Therefore he was left to settle with his conscience, or what he leant on as a substitute for it, in the best manner he could: but in the XVIIIth century it was different. The most minute remnant of the old ideas that might have remained had been stamped out; there was a title of 150 years' possession, and it cannot but be admitted that it was a period when anything to do with the word Church was at its lowest ebb. Besides, it was the custom, and the approved custom of the country, as most people of property held some lay tithe, and we know that there is much in custom.

If I lived in India and had three "pucker" wives, and possibly an unknown quantity of understudies, being also and of course

a man of good behaviour and duly paying respect to the Indian *convenances* of life, the General of the district would hold me up as an example of everything perfect, and the Bishop of the establishment would smile upon me and ask me to his house to dine with his wife and daughters: but if in England, I—the same person—only attempted the mildest *souçon* of even the “under-studies,” alas! the governor, “retired,” would hold me as an example to be shunned, and my Lord Bishop would gather his numerous womenkind to his fold, away from any chance of taint, and would thunder at me with his pulpit pompoms. There is indeed much in custom, and it is a somewhat interesting study to the man who travels in many countries. As a matter of fact, most customs, and the way they are viewed, is chiefly a question of latitude and longitude. A Bishop of one of the northern dioceses of England, since dead, and then an aged man, took a journey to India, his first foreign travel: by the time he had got to Aden, and before he had left home a fortnight, he wrote home to say that many things which until then he had considered as life-long principles he now realised were merely prejudices.

However, there has always been the tradition that ill-luck accompanies the possession of Church estate when put to lay purposes, and it might be an occupation of some interest to any one so inclined to follow the possession of the Church lands in Wick and note how good or ill-luck seemed to accompany the same.

Quite recently an instance of this common belief has come to my knowledge. The parish of St. James, around St. James's Palace, including Pall Mall, St. James's Square, &c., is Crown property, all held on lease of the Crown, with the one exception of a large freehold house in Pall Mall, close to St. James's Palace, which Mistress Ellen Gwynne, Drury Lane flower-seller, fashionable beauty, chief Court favourite, mother of dukes, and possessor of many more good-nesses than badnesses, persuaded her infatuated master and Monarch to grant to her.

In this Crown estate of St. James is a square block of houses of about two and a-half acres, now bounded by streets, originally a convent garden, and confiscated by Henry VIII. On this spot, as long back as tradition goes, the big buildings built thereon for pleasure purposes had always been a failure.

Some years since it fell into the hands of a large financial institu-

tion, and they were compelled to pull down and build again, or see the property revert to the Crown. Now, the secretary of this company was a Catholic, and knew well the popular tradition,—believing it or not it is not for me to say, but he brought the matter before his Board—a Board of long-headed commercial men and lawyers—and they voted £100 to be paid to the present Superioress of the Order from whom this English house had been confiscated, to, I suppose, get her goodwill and to lift the ban.

The result may be arrived at half a century since. All one can say as yet is that the present building venture is a great financial success.

The first manor under the Norman tenure as brought in by William I. to be founded in our village was the manor of Wyke Waryn. This manor house was, if not exactly, still somewhere approximately to the present position of Upper Wick House, now the property of the Rev. Henry Bickerton Hudson, and the demesne lands of the manor are roughly delineated by the large pasture field that lies at the back, also the best part of the large field in front; or, to put it more clearly, the boundary may be cut as follows:—Start from the village road at the westernmost end of Glenmore farm building, and walk due north until you get to the corner of the Flax ground. Cross the running stream and follow it to Assmore cottages, which leave on the right; then come up the village road from Assmore, passing the school on the village green on your right, and when you are opposite the village club-house go due south until you are three-fourths up the big pasture between the village road and the Evesham road; then turn east and walk parallel to the high road until you come to the ditch dividing this field from Andrews' orchard; follow this ditch down again to the village road, and walk along the road eastwards until you come to the spot you started from.

On these demesne lands, in front of the house, the village chapel was erected some years later; and there, in the centre of the village, the church on the one side of the road and the manor house on the opposite side, was, by the graciousness of the lord, the village green, in the centre of which was erected the village cross. The steps and the column of the cross still stand, and in the same place. Originally erected as a reminder of the great act of self-sacrifice that founded Christianity, the last 300 years have seen it muti-

lated of its Christian significance, ignored and enclosed in a field, away from the passer-by, its only use a rubbing-place for sheep. But the pendulum has recently swung back; its early appreciation is now respected, and Mr. Bickerton Hudson, on whose property it stands, may be quite trusted to do what is right with it.

At the back of the manor house of Wyke Waryn there would have been the manorial fish-ponds, without which no manor was properly ordered; and the cottages of the villagers would have been gradually built on the parts of the demesne land lying against the village road. In speaking of the site of the original manor house I am not in a position to say for certain that it was where I have placed it. But we know where the demesne lands of this manor of Wyke Waryn lay; we also know, from contemporary records, that the manor house of this manor was in 1500 where Upper Wick House now stands; and although the site of a house may be changed, the manor house must have always been close to the homestead; and a homestead, with its yards, its barns, its horse-pond, its paddocks, and proximity to the village street, is unchangeable over many centuries, and the homestead of the first manor will without doubt have been the homestead of the dispossessed Saxon Thane. Besides, we have the church, which is where it always was, and we know that it was originally built as a chapel in the manor of Wyke Waryn, presumably close to the manor house, which again we know was always the homestead of the manor. The present cross, showing the centre of the village green of Wyke Waryn, completes, in my opinion, the certainty of the chapel being on the south and the manor house on the north of the village green at the date the chapel was erected.

It has been said—on whose authority I cannot say—that an Augustine priory was founded in Wick, in about 1140, by Peter de Corbezon, and that it only remained here a few years. The fish-ponds at the back of Upper Wick House have been advanced as a proof of this foundation and as pointing to the site; but the manor house, equally with the monastery, if not more often so, had its fish-ponds, and these ponds being in the demesne lands of the manor of Wyke Waryn clearly show that they were manorial and not monastic fish-ponds. Besides, the hamlet of Wick was under the spiritual care of the Abbot of Pershore; and is it probable that that great foundation would allow another

monastery to start on its own lands and under its very Abbey walls?

It is somewhat out of the common to find two residential manors in one village, as many years did not elapse before the manor of Wike Burnell was also created in the village; but the same advantages of position and surroundings that have caused Wick during the last 200 years to our knowledge to be (although a purely agricultural district) so fine a residential one, were there present in the XIIth century. It lay on the main road from Worcester through Pershore, Evesham, and Oxford to London. It was at the point of that road where the road branched off to Elmley Castle (the seat of a powerful Baron and High Sheriff of the county) and also to the rich Benedictine monastery of Winchcombe.

It also lay in the narrow strip that comprised the fertile vale of Evesham. To the south of it was the wooded Bredon Hill, then abounding in wolves, from whence came the name "Wolvers," or "Wollas" Hill; and if you stood on the higher lands of the village and looked across the Avon, there was nothing but one vast expanse of forest as far as the eye could reach, for just across the Avon to the north of it was the extensive forest of Feckenham. Henry II. afforested most of the villages on the borders of this forest, much to the loss of the local lords of the manors, Wick included; but even after Edward I. had disafforested a portion of this large woodland, we find by the perambulation 28 Ed. I. (1300) that its boundary commenced at Worcester at the Southbury (Sudbury) gate, going on through Spetchley and Throgmorton, and striking the Avon at Cracombe. It then followed Avon Banks, to the river Arrow, turning back to the N.W. by the Ridgeway, to Bordeslay and Bromsgrove, skirting Droitwich and ending at the Forest Gate (Forgate) at Worcester. Feckenham Forest was finally disafforested in 1692.

When the manor of Wike Burnell was created the road from Pershore to Evesham, after passing over Pershore Bridge, followed for a short distance the same route as it does now, very nearly up to the present entrance gate into Wick Park^a; but then it

^a The road ran a little above the present N.E. corner of the larch plantation and the park entrance-gate before turning to the left, ash trees. and crossed the present drive between the

turned sharp round to the left until it struck what is now the Waylands footpath, somewhere about half-way between the first and second clapgate—in more poetic southern England they call them kissing-gates—leading from Wick. It then followed the line where the Waylands footpath now is into the village of Wick, passed up what is the present village street, went along where Owlets Lane now is, through Owlets End, leaving Mr. Farmer's old farm-house (now called "The Grange") on its right, and came out into the present high road at the western end of the Milestone Piece. If you will stand at the entrance-gate of Wick Park, by the lodge, and note the direction I mention, you will see it clearly marked out by old elm trees or their stumps and the still unlevelled ditch embankment. The road took this curve out to the south in order to keep clear of the flood, which any one who lives in the neighbourhood knows this line would skirt. If one is interested more particularly to see the exact position of the old road, it will probably be better illustrated if you walk along the Waylands from Pershore Bridge to Wick. When you are about 150 yards from the last clapgate you will find the path consist of big white stones. Stand where you first strike them, and if you look over the hedge along to the park lodge you will clearly see the line of the old road by the elm trees that still stand there.

These stones above mentioned continue into the entrance to Wick village. They were the surface of the old raised footpath or bridge to keep the pedestrian out of floods' way, as you still see in many parts of the country.

The original roads in England—those that grew up to supply a want between village and village and village and town, first a footpath, then a bridle-road or halter-way, and later a road for wheeled vehicles—have seldom altered since Saxon days. Those that were in Worcestershire in the time of the Conqueror are much the same now. They have, of course, been added to, and in the XVIIIth century the whole country was built over with turnpike trust roads, which sometimes took bolder and shorter cuts. The magnificent Roman roads that once existed here have fallen into disuse simply for the reason that they were the military roads of a foreign centralised power for the purpose of holding the country by force. When that power disappeared the want of the roads disappeared also ; but the roads between village and village

and town for communication and for commerce and agricultural wants remained the same, and their necessity grew greater as the country advanced in prosperity.

Returning now to the road from Pershore to Evesham, any one travelling from Pershore on this road would have on their right, before entering the village, the agreeably picturesque site on which Wyke House is now built, and which no number of centuries could alter the beauty of. No wonder that this spot was chosen to create a residential manor house, with its demesne lands in park-like fashion around it.

The site of the original manor house of Wike Burnell was undoubtedly the spot on which Wyke House now stands, and the demesne lands would be approximately bounded on the north by the then Pershore and Evesham road as I have described it, until you came to where the village school is now. Then draw a line from there up to the corner of Timber Lane and the Evesham road, and go on west to Avon Bank House. Passing round the south of that, then go in a straight line N.E. till you strike the old road first mentioned, and the ring-fence is complete. It must be remembered that there was then no high road from Pershore to Evesham as it now exists, and no Timber Lane; so the demesne lands would be in a ring-fence, and there would be a clear, unbroken view from the front of the house (the present back is the old front) over to the village. In fact, the demesne lands are roughly represented by the pleasaunce and grounds of Wyke House, the present Wick Park and the grounds around Avon Bank running down to the high road, which, of course, during the time of Richard Hudson I. were a part of Wick Park, and after the park was cut in two by the new turnpike road were called the Upper Park.

This delineation of the demesne lands of the manor of Wike Burnell represents what they were in the XVth century. Probably earlier, when the manor was first created, they were not quite so extensive, although in my opinion they were; but in any case the site of the manor house was the same in the XIIIth century as it is now.

Wick Chapel, or Wyke Waryn Chapel as it was first called, was built about the XIIth century, and was first a Chapel-of-Ease to the rich Abbey of Pershore, and that foundation drew a large

amount of tithe from the village. We find, in the Augmentation Office, record of the grant of a spring called "Abble-Well^b" lying in one of the Wicks of the Abbot of Pershore, with a power of laying pipes thencefrom for water for the Abbey. History ever repeats itself, for Pershore, after reverting back since the Dissolution of the Monasteries to a more primitive system, now, after a lapse of over 300 years, is about to bring her water supply from the neighbouring hills, which the Abbot of Pershore, although he had no stimulating District Council, did 500 years ago.

In an agreement made between the Abbots of Westminster and Pershore the latter is to have all the tithe arising out of the enclosures of Henry de Harewell or Harley of Bricklehampton, but at the same time he renounces all claim to tithes arising out of lands lately cleared without the said fence being taken from the woods of the Abbot of Westminster, who shall have the tithe of the village land called Shiranland, situate upon Hendon, within Wick Fields; likewise all the land upon Godle, towards Pensham Fields; and as part of the agreement it was ruled [21 Ed. III., Hilary Term] that the Abbot of Westminster should repair Pershore Bridge.

This obviously was an ecclesiastical deal for the accommodation of both parties, and the repair of Pershore Bridge fell on Westminster in consequence of the valuable manor of Binholme that that Abbey held across the Avon from Pershore at Pensham, and extending into Wick and Eckington. These Harewells mentioned above were a very ancient family in Pershore. They were of the same family as the Harewells who resided at their manor house of Besford Court from the XVth century up to a recent date, when they sold the property to the Seabrights. Strange to say, they were not mentioned in any visitation, although one of the Besford Harewells, Sir Edmund Harewell, was Knight of the Bath and High Sheriff of Worcestershire 39th Elizabeth.

Wick, consisting of so many holdings, was often known in these early centuries by the name of "The Wicks." There would have been the two manors of Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell with their demesne lands in the heart of the village, and the outlying

^b This spring is in the village road, half-way between Brown's cottage and the garden gate entrance to Wyke House grounds from the village, arched over with three trees round it.

lands of the manor of Binholme coming under the general description of Wyke-juxta-Pershore, *i.e.* that portion of the village which was not of the manors of Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell.

From this period up to the time of the ecclesiastical contentions and confiscations in Henry VIIIth's reign is the time covered by what has been called "merrie England," whether justly so or not I trow not. It was a period of great advance in the country, and the vassals on the manors were gradually getting a more certain tenure. The great holders of land were of course the monasteries, but they were lenient and thoughtful landlords, and being corporations their management was continuous, eliminating the ruinous effect of dower charges, &c., and the mortgaging of anticipations by the expectant heir. They were also not absentee landlords, and a great portion of the rents they received was returned back to their tenants and the villeins in the way of charitable contributions, in nursing the sick, or in succouring the poor. Every student of English social life knows that the question of how to deal with the indigent poor never arose until the monasteries were dissolved and their hospitable doors finally closed. Unfortunately, this question of the vagrant and the poor has been very exigently with us ever since.

Wick-near-Pershore lay in the main road between the two rich monasteries of Evesham and Pershore; passing by its gates was the road to the great Elmley Castle, to another Benedictine monastery, Winchcombe (founded about the same time as Evesham Abbey), and to the rich Cistercian Abbey of Hayles, close to Winchcombe; so that possibly the village saw more of the then world's doings than it does now.

Hayles Abbey was a most important foundation. It was founded in 1246 by Richard, Earl of Cornwall, to fulfil a vow he had made when in peril at sea. It was dedicated to St. Mary and All Saints on the 5th November, 1251, in the presence of Henry III., Queen Eleanor, and a vast assemblage of ecclesiastics and barons, 13 bishops being present and celebrating at 13 different altars.

Times and ceremonies do not seem to alter much in 650 years, for I read in the London morning papers in November, 1900: "An imposing ceremony took place to-day at St. Anselm's Benedictine College on the Aventine in Rome. Cardinal Rampolla,

Legate-a-latore of the Pope, consecrated the church, sixty-five mitred abbots, four of whom were English, being present, beside many bishops and prelates. Ten cardinals assisted at the function. The church and crypt contain nineteen altars, eighteen of which were consecrated by Benedictine abbots and bishops."

The accession of Henry VIII. marks the beginning of a period, during which many places in England that had had the blessing of little history to chronicle up to then, would now have much to mark them in the remembrance of future generations, and Wick was one of these.



CHAPTER VIII.

Queen Katherine Parr.



VIII.

THE Manor of Wike Burnell had only remained in the hands of the original family that created it up to 1287, when it passed into the possession of the Beauchamps, Earls of Warwick. Of these, after several descents, Richard Beauchamp had three daughters, one of whom, Elizabeth (17 Henry VI.), married George Neville, Lord Latimer; and of the worldly goods she did with him endow were the manors of Wike Burnell, of Great Comberton, and of Wadborough. Of the issue of this marriage, the fourth in male descent was John, Lord Latimer, who was the second of the four husbands that Katherine Parr in close succession demurely allowed herself to be led to the altar by.

At this date, 1534, the Latimer family had been lords of the manor of Wike Burnell through several generations, having held the manor, with other property in the neighbourhood, from 1390, or during a period of 155 years.

On his marriage Lord Latimer settled the manor of Wike Burnell on his wife Katherine, as part of her marriage dower, and as that lady (afterwards Queen of England) resided for some time at Wyke House, and was so intimately connected with the neighbourhood as to choose Winchcombe as the place to spend the first year of her married life with the one idol of her heart, her fourth husband, Admiral Seymour, it may be interesting to recount the circumstances that brought her to reside at Wyke House.

Katherine Parr was born in 1515 at Kendal Castle, in Cumberland, her father being the illustrious descendant of Sir Thomas Parr. She was related to the Stricklands, who held the adjoining castle of Sizergh, a branch of which family are the Gloucestershire Stricklands of Apperly Court. She was, on her mother's side, also closely related with the Throgmortons. Her father held high position in the household of Henry VIII., so that she would have been known when a girl, at least by name, to King Henry.

Her father died in 1517, and although a man of large estate he left her only £400 (equal to about £2,000 of present money)

as a marriage portion. She could not have been more than 13 when she married Edward, Lord de Burgh of Gainsborough, a man of between 50 and 60 with a grown-up family ; but, he dying before two years had expired, she was left a widow at the mature age of 15 years, with little experience and all the responsibility of a step-family on her shoulders, most of whom were very much older than herself. Young, but wealthy, she went to live with her kinswoman, Lady Strickland, at Sizergh Castle, a castle still in the hands of the Strickland family. At about 19 years of age she married, as has already been noted, John, Lord Latimer, another mature widower with a family, and he, on his marriage, settled on her as dower the manors of Wike Burnell and of Great Comberton and Wadborough. The first few years of their married life they spent at Snape Hall, his property in Yorkshire, but it was not long before the storm-clouds that were everywhere gathering commenced to cloud their young married life, as in 1536—barely two years from their wedding-day—her husband, who, like herself, was a zealous Catholic, allowed his religious zeal to outrun his discretion and to place him in the unfortunate position of being in open rebellion against his King.

The suppression of the monasteries and the unholy seizing of Church property by Henry VIIIth's "vileyn" bred minister, Cromwell, had caused a widespread dissatisfaction, which at last broke out in an armed insurrection in the northern provinces. Possibly the miseries of a starving population who up till then had experienced the kindly help of conventual alms in times of distress was the initial cause of this rising, but it was closely connected with religion, and took the form of a protest against the enemies of the older faith, as its demands were : the restoration of the monasteries and papal supremacy, the suppression of the heretical writings of Wycliff, Melanchthon, and Luther, and also that the heretical bishops should be either burnt or compelled to face duel by sword with champions of the Church Catholic. However, this rising, started by a man by name Robert Aske, was promptly joined by many men of good position, of whom there were, amongst others, the Archbishop of York, Lord Neville, Lord Darcy, and the husband of our Lady of the Manor of Wike Burnell, the Lord Latimer. Forty thousand Yorkshiremen formed the nucleus of the rising. They carried before them banners of the Crucifix and of the Sacred

Host, and, marching south, by the time they got to Norfolk, adherents joined them until they numbered 60,000 men. The Duke of Norfolk, whom the King sent north to suppress the rising, seeing its magnitude, thought it better to negotiate than fight, and Lord Latimer was chosen one of the negotiators for the rank and file of the rising, which was commonly called the "Pilgrimage of Grace." The negotiations resulted in a general amnesty, a promise from the King to consider the grievances set forth, and in the last month of 1536 a general pardon was signed by Henry. Lord Latimer, with his wife, thereupon retired to the quiet of their house at Wick, and interested themselves in the well-being of the Wike Burnell Manor and of the other property that they held at Wick and in the neighbourhood.

The new year had hardly come in before another rising broke out in Yorkshire, but Lord Latimer had had time to think of the risk to life and liberty he had recently run. Katherine, his wife, was always known as a prudent and far-seeing woman, and her advice would have been—woman like—on the side of caution; at any rate, the husband of the Lady of the Manor of Wike Burnell kept aloof from this new rising, and remained with his spouse at Wyke House, thus escaping the tragic fate of his late confederates, who were found guilty of high treason and executed in great numbers.

Onwards from now for some time Lord and Lady Latimer stayed at their manor house at Wick, an action prudent in the extreme. He had been in arms against his Sovereign, and common sense dictated that he should keep in the quiet of the country, and not by his presence at Court incite the King into making an additional example of him. There were many reasons for them making Wyke House their residence; both Katherine and her husband were related to the Throgmortons, a family of some weight residing not far off*. The other residential house in Wick, the manor house of Wyke Waryn (now Upper Wick House), belonged to their close relatives, the Nevilles, whilst in the immediate neighbourhood there were many houses belonging to Catholics who hated the new innovations, Spetchley House, Wollas Hall, Beck-

* One of them, Nicholas Throgmorton, cup-bearer, which position he continued to hold in her household until she died at Sudeley Castle. Catherine, that when she was Queen she appointed him to the trusted position of her

ford Hall, and the magnificent old mansion of the Habingtons being close at hand, and containing many hiding-places if the worst should happen.

There is little doubt—and I am afraid some of the past Hudsons would turn in their graves if they knew it—that Wyke House was one of the several centres in our immediate neighbourhood of Catholic plotting against the new innovations. The Nevilles and the Throgmortons were all mixed up in these movements, so was Anthony Babington, who owned the manor a few years later; and he again was the great friend of Thomas Habington, to whom, in consequence of these plots, Worcestershire people owe a debt of gratitude, in that he was pardoned only on the condition that he should never thereafter pass outside the boundary of our county; so he expended his active and able mind on his valuable “Survey of the County of Worcester.” Katherine Latimer, the Lady of the Manor, has always been held up as a woman of superior intellectual attainments and a wise and prudent housewife; it therefore is not difficult to realise her passing down the present village street to attend Mass at the chapel-of-ease of the hamlet, calling in on her relatives the Nevilles, at the manor house of Wyke Waryn opposite (Upper Wick House) on her return from her devotions, and looking in at the cottages of the ancestors of the Sherwoods, the Edgintons, the Turners, and the Youngs, who lived in Wick in those days, as she passed home through the village. How long she lived at Wyke House is not known, but Lord Latimer died in 1543, and so she was again in possession of her liberty as a widow.

Then the grave, learned, and devout Lady Latimer, returning to London again and to Court life, experienced her first love affair. She met the gay, reckless, and gallant Sir Thomas Seymour—that “bold, bad man,” as Miss Strickland chose to call him—and before a couple of new moons had risen on her late husband’s grave her infatuation for this sailor lover had reached fever point; but, alas! the consummation of her hopes had to suffer postponement, as Henry VIII., her lord and Sovereign, was again a widower, and, casting around amongst the women of his Court to find a fresh wife, his eyes fell with approval on the face of the gentle but experienced Lady Latimer, and he offered to espouse her. As Miss Strickland remarks, when the celebrated statute of Henry

VIII. was passed which rendered it a capital offence for any lady who had ever made a lapse from virtue to contract matrimony with her Sovereign without first apprising him of her fault, it was shrewdly observed that his Majesty had now no other alternative than to marry a widow, as no woman dare risk the judgment of a spouse who treated heads like ninepins. However, Henry pressed his suit, and her whilom lover, Sir Thomas, as a well-trained courtier, discreetly vanished from the scene. Katherine's married life with King Henry was, of course, of short duration, and when he died, she being then 35, Sir Thomas Seymour, who was now Lord High Admiral, at once reappeared on the scene, and renewed his advances so successfully that the period which Katherine allowed to elapse between the death of her husband the King and her marriage with Admiral Seymour was so short, that a child might have been born to them with a doubt as to whether it was her present husband's or King Henry's.

Again Katherine's married life was doomed to be short, as she only survived her late husband the King one year and six months, dying in childbed at Sudeley Castle at the age of 36. This estate of Sudeley Castle was royal property, granted to Seymour by the Regency; and as he brought his wife down to it directly they married, we probably see the wish of Katherine, now she was only a subject, to again come down near to her Worcestershire estates, and we may be quite sure that she did not let this honeymoon year pass without sometimes driving over to her manor house or Wike Burnell. The connection between King Henry VIII. and his wife Katherine Parr often induces one to set out a short rule-of-three sum. Henry the King has come down to us in history chiefly held up as a monster to be shunned, the husband of six wives; whilst sweet Katherine is remembered—and correctly so—as possessed of the greater part of the womanly virtues. Now, Henry died at 58, having married six wives; besides, there is generally a little additional liberty conceded to a man on this point; but Katherine died at 36, having had four husbands. This gives an average of one husband to nine years in her case, whilst Henry's average is one wife to 9·7 years. Surely, therefore, we must not permit ourselves to be entirely judged by statistics, but we can appreciate the saying that one person may steal a horse, whilst another must not look over the gate.

On the death of Queen Katherine at Sudeley Castle in 1548 the dower property she had received on her marriage with Lord Latimer went into several channels, this being in consequence of her having had no children by him, so that she would only have a life interest. The manor of Wike Burnell then passed to Sir Anthony Kington, whilst the Great Comberton property went to Dorothy, one of Lord Latimer's daughters by a former wife. This girl, Dorothy Latimer, married Sir Thomas Cecil, afterwards Lord Burleigh, and later Earl of Exeter. The Comberton tenants were many of them freeholders and tenants at will, so during Dorothy's time as Countess of Exeter much of the land was sold to these tenants, and the lordship of Great Comberton was sold to Mr. Hanford, of Wollas Hall, whose family, with one descent through the distaff side, still possess that mansion and property.

The arms of Neville, Lord Latimer, were "Gules, on a Saltire Argent an Ogress," showing their long residence as lords of the manor of Wike Burnell had connected them in some way with the ancient family of Dineley, of Cropthorne, the leading blazon in whose arms was an Ogress.

As showing, too, the old connection with "Wolvers Hill," or "Wollass Hill," the arms of the Hanfords are "Argent, a wolf passant sable."

On the death of Sir Anthony Kington the manor of Wike Burnell passed to a relative of his, the unfortunate Anthony Babington, who in a short life helped to make so much history in the reign of Queen Elizabeth. What the relationship was does not quite appear, but from the similarity of Christian names an interest in the youthful Babington arising from more than relationship is indicated ; but Babington is always described as elegant and good-looking, and property more often than not goes to those relatives on whom the gods have showered their favours. Thomas Anthony Babington, of Dethich in Derbyshire, was a young man of ancient lineage and ample fortune. He had been page to the Earl of Shrewsbury, the polite jailer of Mary Queen of Scots ; he had a pretty face, with the complexion of a girl ; and his sentimental nature led him to form a most enthusiastic attachment to the interests of that beautiful but harshly-treated Queen, and when under the severer constraint of her new jailer, Paulet, her correspondence with her friends outside was entirely stopped, his

ardent feeling for her clouded his better judgment, and he became mixed up in a conspiracy intended primarily to secure the release of Queen Mary; but as obstacles grew up to prevent this, it enlarged itself into a more serious plot to assassinate Queen Elizabeth. From what we know now, although it in no way exonerates Babington from his conspiracy against his lawful Sovereign, there is not a matter of doubt that Babington was counter-plotted against and made a cat's-paw of to get letters from Queen Mary of an apparent treasonable nature, and upon the evidence of such she was soon after brought mercilessly to the block.

Mary Queen of Scots was at this time at Chartley, in Staffordshire; but Babington, although he had been down in the Midlands engaged in this work, was in London when he found that his plot was discovered. He was arrested, but, eluding his guard, after cutting off his hair and staining his beautiful complexion with walnut juice, he, with the other conspirators, fled to the recesses of the forest called St. John's Wood, near Marylebone, at that time the haunt of robbers and outlaws; but they were soon compelled by hunger to quit this wood, and, flying to a sympathiser of the name of Bellamy at Harrow-on-the-Hill, they were there finally arrested.

Babington and his fellow-conspirators were brought to trial, and he, with Titchborne and five others, were executed as the first of two batches on the 13th September, 1588.

This conspiracy was a very serious one, and aimed at taking Elizabeth's life; besides, it proposed to place on the throne a woman whom Elizabeth hated with unusual bitterness, even for her. But all this can in no way excuse or palliate the revolting cruelty that was practised at their execution, on the particular wish of Queen Elizabeth herself^b. She, after the sentence, intimated to her Council the expediency of adopting some "other kind of death" which would be more barbarous and excruciating than the usual punishment of treason, namely, to be hanged, drawn, and quartered, &c.; but when it was intimated to her that such an alteration would be

^b The approaches to London in Queen Elizabeth's time would suggest the vicinity of the Capital of some Ogress, the trees on the high-road being often bowed to the ground with the weight of hanging men: while the gates of the City were always adorned with

the heads or the bloody quarters of such who had been put to death for their religious or political opinions. No wonder the French Ambassador complained of the smell.—*Amusements of Old London*. W.R. Boulton. 2 vols. Nimmo, London, 1901.

illegal, she consented that the law should take its course, on condition that the executions were "protracted to the extremetie of payne" and in the full sight of the people, this being on the suggestion of her minister Burleigh, who said that if the sentence was carefully carried out nothing could be devised that could give greater pain.

The hangman seems to have entered into the full spirit of cruelty that pervaded his Queen and mistress on this occasion, as he barbarously cut the victims down before they were dead, and then proceeded to the completion of his horrible task, in accord with the exact definition of the sentence.

These revolting circumstances attending the execution on the first day so excited the indignation of the populace that Her Majesty deemed it prudent to issue a special order, that the executions of the other conspirators on the following day should be more merciful ; so they were not cut down from the gallows, for carrying out the rest of the sentence, until life was extinct.

Such was the sad fate of poor Thomas Anthony Babington, for some time owner of Wyke House and Lord of the Manor of Wike Burnell. One naturally wonders whether he ever came into residence at Wick, and became known to the tenants of the small holdings and to the cottagers. In all probability, from Queen Mary being imprisoned in the neighbourhood, and from his connection with the Throgmortons, he did, and in such case there would be many eyes in Wick to be dried at the unfortunate ending of one who had so bright a career before him, had he only kept clear of these unfortunate plotters.

When Babington was executed, all his estates were forfeited to the Crown, and Sir Walter Raleigh, then in high favour at the Court of the "Virgin" Queen, was lucky enough to obtain the grant of them ; so we may add to the illustrious owners of the lordship of Wike Burnell the name of this gay Court favourite and daring Buccaneer ; but when the estates came into his possession he separated them out, and, as already stated, the manor of Wike Burnell was purchased by Fowlke Hazlewood, who was then resident in Wick at his manor of Wyke Waryn, and who having married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Babington, a relative of Anthony Babington, was a cousin of the executed man, so he

would naturally be anxious to secure the adjoining estate of the manor of Wike Burnell.

This brings us to the more modern time of the Hazlewoods. They were already resident in the village (at Upper Wick House), so we must go back some years and into the affairs of the lordship of Wick Waryn, which was the manor they then held.



CHAPTER IX.

hazlewood of Wick.



IX.

PEDIGREE OF HAZLEWOOD OF WICK.

- I. Sir Anthony Hazlewood, of Maidwell, co. Northampton.
- II. Thomas Hazlewood, of the county of Northampton, whose son was
- III. Edmund Hazlewood, of Maidwell, co. Northampton ; m. Jane —, and by her had issue—
 1. John, his heir, who married and had issue a son, John ;
 2. Thomas ;
 3. Edward, of Wyke Waryn, of whom further ;
 4. William, d.s.p. ;
 5. Henry, a Priest ;
 6. Edward.
- IV. Edward Hazlewood, of Wyke Waryn, as above ; m. Martha Sherne (he purchased, in 1540, the manor of Wyke Waryn and other manors in Worcestershire from Richard Neville, of Beauchamp Court, co. Warwick). By his wife he had issue—
 1. Fowlke, who succeeded him, and of whom further ;
 2. John,
 3. Edward,
 4. Thomas,
 5. Elizabeth.
- V. Fowlke Hazlewood, as above ; m. Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Babington, of Coddington, (*sic*) Coddington^{*}. He, in addition to the manor of Wyke Waryn that he already held, bought the manor of Wike Burnell in 1586 from the Crown, it having been escheated at the execution of his relative, Anthony Babington. By his wife he had issue—
- VI. Thomas Hazlewood, of Wyke House, lord of the manors of Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell, whose son

^{*} The pedigree up to this point is from the Worcester Visitation, 1569, as recorded in Heralds' Court.

- VII. Francis Hazlewood, of Wyke House, held the same manors, was High Sheriff 1663, and on whose death
- VIII. Sir Thomas Hazlewood, his son, succeeded him at Wyke House and in the manors of Wyke Waryn, Wike Burnell, and the other Worcestershire estates. He was born 1652, High Sheriff 1682, and died 24 Sept., 1720, at Wyke House, and was buried in Pershore Abbey, where a monument was erected to him, and to his wife, and to his numerous children. He married Margaret, dau. of , who was born 1662, died 17 June, 1720, and was buried by her husband's side. By her he had issue 4 sons and 7 daughters (as below), 9 of whom predeceased him and are shown in the family monument :—

1. Thomas Hazlewood, of whom see further ;
2. Edmund Hazlewood, bapt. at Wick church 19 June, 1692^b ;
3. James Hazlewood, bapt. at Wick church 20 Aug., 1693 ;
4. Francis Hazlewood, bapt. at Wick church 4 Nov. 1694 ;
5. Ann Hazlewood, bapt. at Wick church 14 July, 1687 ;
6. Mary Hazlewood, bapt. at Wick church 22 June, 1688 ;
7. Sarah Amelia Hazlewood, bapt. at Wick church 8 Jan., 1689 ;
8. Judith Hazlewood, bapt. at Wick church 16 Dec., 1690 ;
9. Elizabeth Hazlewood, bapt. at Wick church 15 May, 1695 ;
10. A dau. ob. caleds ;
11. Margaret Hazlewood, bapt. at Wick church 16 May, 1697.

- IX. Thomas Hazlewood, the eldest surviving son (as above), of Wyke House, who also enjoyed the family estates in Worcestershire. He died 10 Jan., 1732, and was bur. in family vault at Offenham. He mar. Anne, dau. of, who died at Gloucester 1 Mar., 1753, and by whom he had one son—

^b From Bishop's Transcripts at Worcester, Wick Registers having been destroyed.

- X. James Hazlewood, of Wyke House, who inherited from his father the Wick estates, also the estates at Bengeworth, Bricklehampton, and Offenham, which in a very few years he squandered. He mar. a Miss Andrews, and, leaving Wyke House in 1745, we have no further trace of him.

THE ARMS OF HAZLEWOOD OF WICK.

On a chevron gu. betw. 3 owls sa. as many lozenges of the first.

In a chief az. 3 branches of hazel, slipped or.

Crest : On a wreath ar. and sa. a squirrel feeding on a nut gu.

We have seen that Upper Wick House stands on the site of the original old manor house of Wyke Waryn. In former days it was, more than now, the central point of the village, and cottages clustered more numerous around the house and the church opposite, between which would have been the village green with the usual Calvary upon it ; but Wick, like other purely agricultural villages, has decreased the number of its cottages in the latter half of the present century. When the Wick award was made in 1807 there was a bunch of cottages in what is now a small orchard on the opposite side of the road to where the vicarage stands ; then there were also a lot of cottages on the south side of the road (just opposite the present village club-house), which is now a coppice. I remember these last cottages when I was a boy. Then, just on the other (the east) side of Glenmore House were several cottages where is now the kitchen garden of that house, these cottages being originally the old homestead of what was called "Power's Copyhold," but they were burnt down about 1850.

The last Waryn we have record of as actually residing at Wyke Waryn Manor (otherwise Upper Wick House) was William de Waryn, who was in residence there in 1300 ; but the Waryns held the manor in their family for about a century after this, when the manor passed to the earls of Warwick, who would of course have a steward in residence, or would let out the estate to someone else to farm it ; but in 1490 the manor had passed into a younger branch of that family, as it was then owned by Richard Neville, of Beauchamp Court, county of Warwick, and he sold it in 1550 to Edward Hazlewood, then living in the county of Worcester on some property he had purchased at Offenham. This will have been just

after the death of Queen Katherine Parr, then Katherine Seymour, at Sudley Castle, so when Mr. Edward Hazlewood bought this manor of Wyke Waryn the village was still full of the reminiscences of their late lady of the chief village manor of Wike Burnell, and of whose sad ending at Sudeley Castle, within a few miles of Wick, would be fresh on their minds. Edward Hazlewood then came to reside at his manor house of Wyke Waryn, opposite the village church, and he was living there through all the excitable period of the Catholic plotting, in consequence of which his neighbouring lord of the manor at Wyke House, Thomas Anthony Babington, had to forfeit his life.

Mr. Hazlewood's son, Fowlke, married Elizabeth, daughter of Thomas Babington, of Coddington, a close relative of Thomas Anthony Babington, and when the estates of the latter gentleman were, on his execution, forfeited to the Crown and granted to Sir Walter Raleigh, it was only the most natural thing in the world that Fowlke Hazlewood should endeavour to become the owner of these estates in Wick and move into residence at Wyke House, as in effect he did, from thenceforward making that mansion the manor house of both the lordships of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn.

Up till now the manor of Wike Burnell had owned as its lords an illustrious roll of belted knights and of the higher aristocracy. Now it was to have as the lady of the manor the learned, experienced, and prudent sixth wife of Henry VIII., at present Katherine Parr, or rather Katherine Latimer, and later, to have poor Thomas Anthony Babington, who lost his head for the old faith.

This part of Worcestershire had always been a strong supporter of the Catholics. When I was a boy the leading county houses in the immediate neighbourhood then belonged, and had done so right through from the XVIth century, to Catholics. Hanford of Wollas Hall, Wakeman of Besford Hall, Acton of Wolverton, and Berkeley of Spetchley came under this description.

With the accession of the Hazlewoods, Wyke House commenced a reign of County Commoner families.

The Hazlewoods were originally a Northamptonshire family. Sir Anthony Hazlewood, of Maidwell, in the county of Northampton, had—as will be seen in the Hazlewood pedigree at the com-

mencement of this chapter—a great-grandson, Edward Hazlewood, who married Martha Sherne, and soon after bought from Richard Neville, of Beauchamp Court, the manor of Wyke Waryn with other property in the neighbourhood, and came to reside at Wick in his manor house, which was, as we already have seen, what is now called Upper Wick House.

I do not know when the house was first called by this name, but I should say that the term Upper Wick, as applied to this part of the village, was a very old nomenclature: we know that, in the middle centuries, what we now call Wick went by the name of "The Wicks." There would have been, as you first came from Pershore way, the manor of Wike Burnell with its surrounding cottages; then, as you passed up the village to the higher or upper part, you would have the manor of Wyke Waryn, with also its surrounding cottages; and then there were nondescript parts of the village, part belonging to the manor of Binholme, not included in this, and going by the name of Wick-juxta-Pershore.

The Hazlewoods, on the distaff side, were related to the Burrells, and although that family had for a long period ceased to own Wike Burnell, they still held several estates in the neighbourhood, and this alliance will have probably been the cause of the Hazlewoods buying estates in Worcestershire, they having a short time previously purchased from Sir Phillip Hoby some of the confiscated church property of the Abbey of Evesham at Offenham. This property the family still held when they finally sold their Wick estates, in the middle of the XVIIIth century, to the Hudsons.

The Hazlewoods were a Northamptonshire family of good descent; they had, either by their industry or by favourable alliances with other families, amassed good means, and Edward Hazlewood took advantage of the large Church estates that Henry VIII. had confiscated, and was willing to sell at a reasonable figure, to purchase valuable manors and estates in the county of Worcester. There is no period in English history from the Roman Conquest that beheld such an enormous transfer of real property as this time of the dissolution of the Monasteries of England; there are very few families of any position at the present time (except, of course, the old Catholic families) that do not commence the title of a portion of their estates from this confiscatory Act of Henry VIII. When Fowlke Hazlewood, the

eldest son of Edward Hazlewood, attained his majority in 1569, the pedigree of the family for three generations, with their arms, was duly recorded at the Heralds' Court.

These arms were: "On a chevron gules between three owls sable as many lozenges of the first, on every lozenge an Ermine." Crest: "On a wreath argent and sables a squirrel feeding on a nut gules." The arms were differenced later on by the addition of: "In a chief azure three branches of Hazel slipped or," which are as we find them in the achievement of Sir Thomas Hazlewood in 1720. They are—following the very bad habit of the period—of course canting arms.

In 1586, Fowlke Hazlewood, the son of Edward Hazlewood, who had purchased and was then living at the manor of Wyke Waryn, has to witness the escheating to the Crown of the neighbouring manor of Wike Burnell, in consequence of its owner having been attainted of High Treason. But as all the estates of the executed man were granted by the Crown—then resting on the brow of the Virgin Queen Elizabeth—to that daring sailor, dauntless buccaneer, blessed introducer of tobacco, and latest Court favourite, Sir Walter Raleigh, who had no personal interest in them, but only wanted to make a profit, Fowlke Hazlewood took the opportunity to purchase from him the manor of Wike Burnell, and so round off his Wick estates and make Wyke House his residence. He was not then altogether unconnected with the manor of Wike Burnell, in that his wife, Elizabeth Babington of Coddington, was cousin to the executed man.

By the purchase of Wike Burnell, Fowlke Hazlewood would become lord of both the Wick manors, and they have remained so joined ever since, the lord of the joint manors always residing at Wyke House. It was during the reign of Fowlke Hazlewood at Wyke House that Queen Elizabeth passed through the village on her way to Elmley Castle. This journey of the Queen through Pershore is commemorated in the modern stained-glass window of Pershore Abbey Church, that was designed in recent years to commemorate the chief occurrences in the history of Pershore.

In her girl days the Princess Elizabeth had to look up to Katherine Parr as her stepmother; later, when the ex-queen Katherine had married her fourth husband, the Lord High Admiral Seymour, Elizabeth, then a blooming girl in her fifteenth

year, was wont to romp (so says Miss Strickland) with the sailor husband of her stepmother more than that lady altogether liked ; and if Lady Tyrwhit, who was not only lady-in-waiting but the faithful friend of Katherine, when she was brought to bed at Sudeley Castle with her only child, the issue of her marriage with the Lord High Steward Seymour, Baron Sudeley, is to be believed, the ex-queen's death from puerperal fever was brought on from hearing the whispers amongst the gossips in her bed-chamber as to the passion of her husband for the Princess Elizabeth, and his intentions of aspiring to that royal lady's hand in the event of Katherine's death.

We may be certain that in every probability Queen Elizabeth came to know of this, and that being so, is it likely that she would pass Wyke House, once the property of and the residence of her late stepmother, without stopping to look at it and to partake of some refreshment in the handsome banqueting hall of Mistress Fowlke Hazlewood, the Chatelaine of the manor.

Fowlke Hazlewood was succeeded by his son, Thomas Hazlewood, who was in turn succeeded by his son, Francis Hazlewood, High Sheriff of the county, 1663, and who dying about 1680, Wyke House, the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, his other estates in Wick, in Bricklehampton, in Bengeworth, and in Offenham, devolved upon his son Thomas, who was born in 1652, succeeded to the family estates about 1680, was made High Sheriff of the county in 1682, and later was knighted by King Charles II.

Sir Thomas Hazlewood's accession to the Wick Manors was about a century and a half from the first purchase of them by the Hazlewood family, and it represents a period when the Hazlewoods of Wick seem to have been at the zenith of their County position, for in two succeeding generations after the death of Sir Thomas, his grandson James squandered his ancient patrimony, and Wick knew the Hazlewoods no longer.

This Sir Thomas Hazlewood is of especial interest to us, in consequence of the quaint tomb that was erected in his memory in Pershore Abbey church, and which vividly records a sad tale of family bereavement.

He was an ideal squire, thoroughly interested in the welfare of his tenants and his cottagers ; both he and his wife setting

the example in their own home of family duty. He married Margaret Dinely, of Cropthorne, a woman ten years his junior, who was fruitful of children: for she bore to him in eleven consecutive years (*vide* Hazlewood pedigree) a like number of children, each of whom was regularly taken in arms down the village, to the chapel of Wyke Waryn, and there baptized; all of which is duly recorded in the registers of the parish. Unfortunately, the Wick church registers are very deficient, but the wise law which compelled the clergy to send in yearly to their bishop copies of their register, has secured a register of this period in the parish transcripts of the diocese of Worcester, which lie at the Edgar Tower, Worcester, where all the old diocesan records are now kept.

Nine of these eleven children predeceased Sir Thomas, one dying an infant, and the other eight all at very early ages.

The monument in Pershore Abbey church shows all these, one being in her cradle, and one a girl looking full face, who is understood to have been demented. Dame Hazlewood died in June, 1720, her husband only living for three months after she had been carried to the grave.

The tomb that was erected in memory of Sir Thomas and his family stood, when I was a boy, in the south-east corner of Pershore Abbey church, on your right as you entered the church by the S.E. door; this monument is now (1901) in the northern corner of the west end of the church, having been moved there at the restoration in 1862.

On the tomb are set out the grand quarterings of Sir Thomas impaling the grand quarterings of his wife, dame Margaret, his own quarterings consisting of ten coats, and his wife's of four coats of arms; they are nearly illegible at the present time, but they are duly recorded in the XVIIIth century, so I now set them out:—

1. On a chevron gules, between 3 owls sable as many losenges of the first. On every losenge an Ermine: in a chief azure, three branches of Hazel, slipped or.—HAZLEWOOD.

2. Argent, a chevron sables between 3 squirrels, each holding a nut gules.—HOLT.

3. Party per pale, or and azure, a chevron between 3 Fleur-de-lis counterchanged.—WELLS.

4. Argent, a chevron and 2 quaterfoiles, in chief slipped sables, impaling,

5. Sable, two bars argent, and three plates in chief.—HUNGERFORD, quartering,
6. Argent, a lion sable, within a border azure.—BURNELL (?).
7. Ermine, two bars sable.
8. Argent, a lion rampant, within a border sable. — LORD BURNELL.
9. Argent, two bars sable, and three Ogresses in chief.
10. Sable, a chevron or.—RIDMEDYSHALL.
11. Or, three Ogresses, a label of azure.
12. Argent, a lion rampant, sable, within a border of azure.
13. Or, a saltire, engrailed sables.—BOTETORT.
14. (Unreadable).

The Crest :—

On a wreath argent and sables, a squirrel feeding on a nut gules.

Habington says that in 1650 there was a tomb to Fowlke Hazlewood standing in the north wall of the chancel, which carried arms consisting of ten quarterings. It was at that date much dilapidated, but the arms were much the same as the ten quarterings mentioned above. This tomb is not now, I believe, to be seen ; but since Habington's time the destructive hands of Cromwell's Puritans passed over the county, and Pershore Abbey church suffered its full quota of savagery, which seemed to chiefly expend its fury and hatred on stained-glass windows and family monuments.

When the Hazlewoods had bought Wyke House and made it the manor house of both manors, they kept on the old manor house of Wyke Waryn, opposite the church, as a dower house or other residence in the village for younger members of the family, as we find several Hazlewoods, of Wyke Waryn, buried in Pershore Abbey church at the end of the XVIth century, and in 1624 Elizabeth Dinely, third daughter of Francis Dinely, of Cropthorne, married Mr. Hazlewood, of Wyke Waryn. This Francis Dinely was then High Sheriff of the county.

The Dinelys of Cropthorne were a very old family in the county, and they were closely connected by marriage with the Hazlewoods, as may be seen by the number of Dinely "Ogresses" in the Hazlewood quarterings. During the period of Sir Thomas Hazlewood the Dinely family also seem to have attained their

highest point of position and prosperity. They then held several lands and tenements in the fields of Wick, and the proximity of Cropthorne to Wick would have helped to cement the family ties.

The end of the XVIIth century was not a period when art and good taste counted for much. It was about then that the gorgeous and garish monument-tombs that we have in our neighbourhood were chiefly built.

Take journey to Cropthorne church and see the Dinely tomb of this period, including the Dinely coat of arms, viz., "Argent, a fess, and in chief an ogress betw. two mullets sa." The blazon contains twenty-four quarterings, amongst which are those of Burnell. Charlton came into the Dinely family by marriage, and the later descendants of the family lived there instead of at Cropthorne. The last of the family of male descent was Sir Edward Dinely, who died without male issue, but left a daughter, Eleanor, who was his sole heiress, and married her fourth cousin, Edward Goodyere, of Burghope, Herefordshire, who was created a baronet 5th December, 1707, and stood for Evesham in several Parliaments, dying at a great age in 1739, and was succeeded by his son, Sir John Dinely Goodyere, of Charlton, who assumed the surname of Dinely. He was the last of the family who enjoyed it, for having been for some years on bad terms with his brother, Samuel Dinely Goodyere, captain of H.M.S. 'Ruby,' he threatened to disinherit him in favour of his sister's son, John Foot, of Truro, in Cornwall, which naturally deeply angered his sailor brother. Sir John Dinely Goodyere happened to go down to Bristol to visit a friend, and whilst there his brother, Captain Goodyere, whom he had threatened to disinherit, came into port with the 'Ruby' man-o'-war, and was invited to meet his brother at dinner. After dinner, when on his way to his inn, Sir John was seized and gagged by some of the 'Ruby's' crew, taken on board that ship, and thereupon strangled. The murder was discovered, and Captain Goodyere was tried for his life and hanged.

Some of the descendants must still have adopted the family surname of Dinely, for in 1850 there used to live in Pershore an old gentleman who considered himself the last of the race, and, being somewhat feeble, he was constrained to spend the best part of his time at the bow-window of his house in Pershore Street,

perfectly content in building up a diary of events from the doings of the passers-by.

There is also not far off, in an opposite direction, and at Birlingham, another of these gorgeous Carolinean tomb-monuments of a similar date. It is to the Hanfords, of Wollas Hall, and was erected about 1630.

Nafford used to be a very important parish and church, and Birlingham was then a chapelry to same; now Eckington is the parish and church, and Nafford is the churchless hamlet of Birlingham. Nafford was important in that it contained Wollas Hall, on the northern slope of the Bredon Hill, with its church of Nafford built a little higher up on the hill.

Wollas Hill took its name from the number of wolves there. Henry I. granted a special charter to Walter de Beauchamp, then of Wike Burnell, to chase wolves in "Wolvershill," on the side of Bredon Hill. Nafford was originally the seat of the Golaferes, from whom are descended the Russells of Strensham; but from the Golaferes the place went to the Vampages, and the Hanfords, who for 300 years were at Wollas Hall, were from that family. The late Mr. Hanford, of Wollas Hall—or as he was always called, Hanford-of-the-Hill—dying without male issue, the property passed on the distaff side, going to his daughter, who married William Flood, of Flood Hall, county Kilkenny, J.P., D.L., who thereupon took the name of Hanford-Flood; but his eldest son, Colonel John Compton, who now owns Wollas Hall, has by Royal license dropped the name of Flood as part of his surname, and so the name of Hanford, so honourably connected with the county for so many centuries, is now continued through the distaff side.

It was during the life of Francis Hazlewood, the father of Sir Thomas, that the Avon was made navigable by the erection of a series of locks. Up till then the river was as unnavigable as the Wye is now. It had not the fall, and so not the rapid running of that river; but, nevertheless, excepting where it was banked up for ancient mill purposes, it ran too shallow for boats. Sir Thomas would, in his time, have commenced to feel the benefit of this great improvement. Until 1640 the Avon was an unnavigable river, but at that date Mr. William Sandys, son of Sir William Sandys, of Miserden, county Gloucester, having first secured the rights of the river, put in locks at Tewkesbury, Strensham, Nafford,

Pershore, Wyre Piddle, Fladbury, Chadbury, Evesham, Harrington, Cleeve Prior, and Bidford, and with many straight cuttings made it navigable for barges of 30 tons from Tewkesbury to Shadford, a distance of 40 miles by water, and at an expenditure of £20,000. As Nash very properly says, a great abbey made a town increase, and by the XVIth century Pershore had grown into a place of importance; but at the Dissolution of the Monasteries, although it retained its privilege of fairs and market, it soon dwindled into a place of little trade and of small importance. The opening of the Avon to navigation among the rich lands of the Vale of Evesham in the latter half of the XVIIth century brought fresh life back to Pershore. Its commerce rapidly increased, and many persons came to reside there, the period 1750 seeing it a well-paved town, with a goodly number of fine residential houses, its beaux and belles being sufficient to support a coiffeur of such eminence, that in his pride he erected the highest barber's pole in the kingdom to keep company with the other Pershore celebrity, "the only Quiet Woman" in England, both of which existed in my time, the latter being the name of an inn having for sign one of the gentler sex seated in a chair with a padlock on her lips. Pershore then, as now, was celebrated for its bow-windows, commanding a view up and down the streets. It was also a favourite town residence for people in the Midlands during the winter season; in fact, it was quite a miniature Cheltenham.

At the death of Sir Thomas Hazlewood in 1720 he was succeeded by his only surviving son, Thomas, who, although spending part of his time at Wyke House, preferred to live his life at his seat at Offenham, and away from the sad memories of the fatalities amongst his brothers and sisters, which would be so continuously kept fresh in his mind by the tomb-monument he had erected to them and his parents in Pershore Abbey church. He died 10th January, 1732, not having enjoyed robust health, and was buried in the family vault at Offenham, leaving an only son and heir in the person of James Hazlewood, who succeeded to Wyke House, to the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, and to the rest of the family estates in Wick, Bricklehampton, Bengeworth, and Offenham.

CHAPTER X.

The last of the Hazlewoods.



X.

JAMES HAZLEWOOD, of Wyke House, Esquire, is the last of that family who held the Wick Manors, or a position of any standing in the county of Worcestershire.

The late George Bengough Hudson used to say, that there were few things foolish a young man could do that his maiden aunts and family generally would not overlook upon his finally settling down, except the making of a mesalliance, and that if he unluckily did that he was for certain damned, not only in this world, but also in the world to come.

James Hazlewood was brought up at Offenham, his father, Thomas Hazlewood, morbid with the misfortunes that had attended the previous generation of his family at Wick, had cast off the dust of his feet at Wyke House, and had determined to live his life at his other manor house of Offenham. He died—practically a young man—under forty years of age, and therefore his son James, who had been brought up in all the pious surroundings of his serious parents, came into the property when he was hardly out of his teens.

Of all the various methods adopted by parents for bringing up children, especially boys, I have never been able as yet to find one more certain to turn out young men of irreligious temperament, who ignore all the convenances of life and more generally go rapidly to the bad, than the one which endeavours to cram too great a quantity of religion into them in their early youth. It saddens one to realize that through a narrowness of mind in parents, the early germs are killed of that religious belief which is to many a necessary guide, a comfort and a strength, in the responsibilities and the trials of life.

James Hazlewood was no exception to the rule ; he started life by making a foolish marriage with a Miss Andrews, and when the fascination of a pretty face, in only too short a time, lost its power, and he realized that she was not a suitable chatelaine for Wyke House, he was thrown back upon his own resources,

which, unfortunately, did not contain much respect for family traditions, appreciation of his position in the county, or love of honest sport, so he found his most suitable pleasure in cock-fighting, in the rattle of the dice, and in other forms of gambling.

In 1739, just seven years after he had inherited the property, in the month of February, there had been a day's hunting on Bredon Hill followed by a dinner in the lofty banqueting hall of Wyke House. Ladies seldom lent the grace of their presence to the table at these boisterous hunt dinners, and with the disappearance of the cloth and the advent of the dessert, the huntsman would appear on the balcony at the south end of the room and winding his horn the hounds would come trooping in from the outer hall, lying amongst the feet of the guests, witnesses to the number of bottles each of them took and was able to carry in his chair without slipping under the table.

Play was heavy that night, luck ran against the host, and before daylight broke over the front lawn he had, as a last resource, staked his manor of Bricklehampton and had lost. This, as we may easily imagine, was the beginning of the end, for the next month he borrows the sum of £10,000 upon the security of his manors and estates at Wick, to enable him to pay the debt of honour of the value of his Bricklehampton manor, that ill luck had lost him at the dice-table.

Times like these are very merry and fascinating while they last, but this heavy loss seems to have somewhat sobered for a time our youthful lord of the manor. However, the load of mortgage was too heavy a strain, and so after selling some of his outlying properties, he, in 1745, sells outright to the Reverend Bernard Wilson, D.D., of Newark-upon-Trent, and for the sum of £19,379 14s. 2d., the remainder of his Worcestershire estates, comprising the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, also certain copyhold and leasehold lands held of the manor of Binholme, and also valuable tithes on the Wick lands.

These estates are described as :—

All those the manors or lordships of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, the Mansion house with gardens, out-houses, dove-houses, &c. ; pasture land and meadow, &c., commonly known as Wick Park ; also certain copyhold property held of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster in Wick-near-Persore ; also land, &c.,

at Pensham and at Holy Cross and St. Andrew's, Pershore ; also mansion and land at Offenham ; also the lordship and manor of Bricklehampton, with land, houses and cottages ; also the lordship or manor of Bengeworth, with lands and houses, including the Rectory House and the right of presentation ; also land at Comberton and at Eckington, and all tithes included in the whole estate.

So passes away from our view, and from connection with Wick, all that is left of the name of Hazlewood. They were a family of some standing when they first came to Offenham in the county of Worcestershire. It was in 1550 that they first bought property in the village of Wick and came to reside at the manor of Wyke Waryn, and if James Hazlewood had only stayed another five years, they would have been the squires of Wick for nearly 200 years.

Ill luck just about this period seems to have fallen on the immediate neighbourhood. A neighbour and relative of the Hazlewoods was Dinely of Cropthorne, an old family in the county of Worcester and of more ancient date in the county than the Hazlewoods. Sir John Dinely of Cropthorne dying in 1745 without male issue, the name passed away, and later the estates also, in consequence of the tragedy connected with Captain Good-yere, mentioned in the previous chapter.

In Appendix (I.) is shown an excerpt of the Deed of Indenture inrolled in the Record Office as to the sale of these Wick estates from James Hazlewood to the Rev. Bernard Wilson, which contains the names of the Wick cottagers, and also by the courtesy of Mr. Alfred Hudson, of Wyke House, who has the original, I am able to give a copy of the valuation that was made in 1743 for the purposes of this sale, which will be of interest to anyone who knows his Wick well, and the names of its present fields.

THE PARTICULARS OF MR. HAZLEWOOD'S FREEHOLD
LANDS AND TENEMENTS IN WICK.—MADE LADY
DAY, 1743.

		Number of Acres.			Yearly Value.		
		<i>a.</i>	<i>r.</i>	<i>p.</i>	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
Agreed at £150.	The Capital Messuage, Outhouses, Fold Yards, and one Garden, next the Mansion House, with a good Pidgeon House.						
	The Little Paddock and Long Garden	2	0	0	40	0	0
	The Hither Parck, and Pidgeon House and Orchard	9	0	0			
	The Parck Meadow	5	0	0			
	The Further Parck	8	0	0			
	A Barn and Stable in the possession of Mr. John Smith.						
Rented about 8 yrs. Land- lord pays	In the Common Fields (Ar.) .	20	0	0	10	0	0
Parish Rates.	Meadow Ground in Lathom .	1	0	0			
	For the Grass in the Farm Orchard .	3	0	0			
In hand.	One Messuage or Tenem ^t with the outhouses thereto belonging & allo ^d . Wick Farm and Tandy's, except the House and Orchard set to Edw ^d Stiles.						
	Meadow Ground by the River Avon side in the Common Meadows .	33	2	0			
	Lady Hades Meadow (Comōn at Mid ^r)	6	0	0			
	Late Tandys Meadow (C.M.) .	1	2	0			
	Farm Close (Pasture) Inclosed .	6	0	0			
	Watery Sturmer Clo. (P.) (Comōn at Mids ^r to Cand ^s)	3	0	0			
	Evesham Hill (P.) Com. after Harvest	3	0	0			
	Brickland Brake (P.) C. at Mid ^r .	2	0	0			
	Rodford (P.) C. at Mid ^r to C. .	2	0	0			
	Sinnells Field Cherry Orchard, lately taken out of the Comōn Field—C. from Har ^{vt} to Cand ^s	7	2	0			

		Number of Acres.			Yearly Value.		
		<i>a.</i>	<i>r.</i>	<i>p.</i>	£	<i>s.</i>	<i>d.</i>
In ffour Comōn ffields there.							
In the Upper Fields		69	0	0			
In the Lower Fields W ^t Land		74	0	0			
In the Ryeland ffield.		20	0	0			
100 Sheep Pastures by the Custom from Candlemas to Lady Day					5	0	0
19 Cows and a Bull by the Custom from L. D. to 3rd May					6	0	0
4 Cows and a Bull by the Custom from 3 ^d May till all the grass is cut in the Meadows					2	0	0
In hand.	One Acre of Mead ^w Ground called Penny Rope Acre	2	0	0			
In hand.	The Fishery called Gutt. The Hill Orchard (Hunter tenant) The Cherrys reserved to Mr. Hazle- wood	5	0	0	5	12	6
The Bowling Green . . . Com. at Mid ^r S.M.		1	0	0	0	10	0
The Bannutt Tree Grove set @ 6s. per an.		2	0	0			
The Long Grove in hand							
Dancock's at the "Maiden Head" in Persore.	One piece of Land Inclosed planted with Apple Trees, Rented by Will ^m Dancocks, called Whites Croft, formerly set at — a year				7	0	0
One piece of Pasture called Padlock Close in M ^r . Hatton's poss. (Dear)		3	0	0	4	0	0
Mr. Vole.	Padlock Meadow. (Dear)	2	0	0	2	0	0
[Note.—Land ^d pays parochial payt ^s .]							
Edw. Pugh holds.	Two Tenements, Late Quarrels				2	10	0
Meadow Ground in Lattham and Mill Furlong in poss. J. H ^d		4	0	0			
Bush Hodge Close in Upper ffield. London Way Little Close.							
In hand.	Highway ffurze Cherry Orchard	4	0	0			
More Land belonging to the Home Estate in Upper ffield (W ^t L ^d)		11	0	0			
In Lower ffield (W ^t L ^d)		9	0	0			
In Lower ffield, Rye Land		12	0	0			

	Number of Acres.			Yearly Value.		
	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
Jno. Hatch, for One Messuage with the Outhouses, late in the poss. Joseph Checketts.						
[Note.—Very much out of repair To be valued as a Bare House.]						
Edw. Badger, The Orchard and Out-houses belonging to the above house abo ^t	2	0	0	11	0	0
In the Lower fields, Wheat Lands	5	0	0			
In ditto Barley Land	4	2	0			
In ditto Rye L ^d	1	2	0			
In Lattham, Piddle Mead ^w and Littleham	2	0	0	6	10	0
In the Upper Field (Pulse)	7	0	0			
In the Fallow Field (Fallow)	2	0	0			
The Church Yard Orchard	6	0	0			
ffor Late Righton's Estate, viz ^t . A House, Barn, and Outhouses, Stables, &c.						
One Apple Orchard and ffield Yard ab ^t	2	0	0	27	0	0
In Lattham, Meadow Ground, Cōmon	3	2	0			
In Mill Furloe, do. Cōmon	4	1	0			
In Lower ffield—W ^t Land	16	0	0			
In Do.—Rye Land	11	0	0			
In Do.—Barley Land	12	0	0			
In the Upper ffield (Pulse)	18	2	0			
In the same ffield (Fallow)	12	0	0			
In do. (Rye Land)	14	0	0			
The Inhabitants for the Tythes.—						
The Freehold Tythes Set to the Sev ^l Inhabitants @ £60 per an ⁿ .						
				£	s.	d.
Note.—The Parish pay ^{ts} are	5	6	6			
The $\frac{1}{4}$ of w ^{ch} to be						
abated which is	2	13	3			
A Tenement in the Possession of Thos. Walford.						
The House and Shop, 30s. The Orchard, 30s.	2	0	0			
Edward Stiles for Late Tandy's House and Orchard						

	Number of Acres.	Yearly Value.
	<i>a. r. p.</i>	<i>£ s. d.</i>
One Orchard adjoining to Pinnock's Cherry Grass	1 0 0	1 5 0

Wid^o Marshall for Blake's House and
Garden and Orchard called y^o
Piggs.

Quarrel's Home Stall.

W^m Osborne—

For Cales Wheelers Q^r of a Yard,
Land and Quarrell's, 4 acres.

A Messuage, Barn, and Outhouses.

One Orchard	1 2 0
In the Lower fields, W ^t Land	13 2 0
In do. Rye Land	6 0 0
In the Upper ffield, W ^t Land	9 2 0
In Do. Rye Land	1 2 0
In Lattham, Com. M.	2 0 0
Do. in Mill ffurlong	0 2 0
1 piece in the Upper ffield called Morteby	2 0 0
2 pieces in the Lower ffields called Small Moors Close and Piddle Church Close ab ^t	3 0 0
A piece called the Hales	0 1 0

Piddle Way Close.

(Q^r in whose Possession.)

W^m Hacklett—

W^m Hacklett holds by Lease, dated
y^o 10th Jan^y, 1740, the Estate
Following for 12 years. To hold
all but the Enclosed Land from
Mich^{as}, and the Enclosed Land
from Lady Day.

Parish Payments to be paid by y^o
Tenant. Land Tax and repairs
by y^o Landlord. The rest usual
Covenants.

3 yrs. and up-
wards expired.

	Number of Acres.			Yearly Value.		
	a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
One Messuage formerly called Marshalls. 2 Barns with Outhouses and Dovehouse.						
One Apple and One Cherry Orchard adj ^s						
One Cherry Orchard called Gildings, other side the lane, formerly part of Righton's.	5	0	0			
In the Lower ffield, W ^t Land .	14	2	0			
In the same ffield, R. Land .	3	2	0			
In the same ffield, Bar ^y Land .	16	0	0			
In the Upper ffield, Pulse .	14	2	0			
In the Fallow ffield, 2 Ares of Ryeland, whole	18	0	0			
In Lattham, M. . . .	2	0	0			
In Hyrons	1	0	0			
In Brickle, M. . . .	1	0	0			
In Midlam	1	1	0			
In Millfurlong	1	0	0			
In Piddle Meadow	0	2	0			
Hewlett—						
For Piddle Naite.						
Luke's House and Orchard.						
Jonathan Sherwood, an Orchard .	1	0	0			
Mr. Bentley Quarrell for the Hanging Close part of the G ^t ffarm .	4	0	0	4	10	0
(Landlord pays parish pay ^{ts} .)						

REVERSIONS IN WICK.

Edward Pugh, for one Life, aged 55 years.

A House and Orchard (about)	.	1	0	0
Wheat Land	} In the Cōm. ffields	4	0	0
Rye Land		0	2	0

(2 Hens, Best Beast for a H^t.)
Chief R^t 6s. 8d.

			Number of Acres.			Yearly Value.		
			a.	r.	p.	£	s.	d.
Joseph Bushell, his own Life, aged about 34 years.								
Chief Rent, 8 shillings.	A House and Orchard	.	0	1	0	5	0	0
	A Barn and a Cow House	.						
	In Lattham Mead ^w , M.	.	1	0	0			
	Wheat Land, W ^t ffields	.	2	0	0			
	Barley ffields	.	1	0	0			
	Pulse ffields	.	1	2	0			
	In the fallow field	.	0	2	0			
Edw ^d Washbourne of Parshore—								
A House and $\frac{1}{4}$ of an Acre of Land for his wife's life, aged 43 years.								
Chief R ^t , 4s.								
Herriott, 40s.								
Part of the Tythes at Wick, Leasehold under the Dean and Chapter of West ^r abo ^t .								
Privy Tythes in Wick—								
	Thomas Marriott for a Quit Rent		0	1	0			

It was in 1739 that James Hazlewood staked and lost at the gaming-table the value of his manor of Bricklehampton, and, as we have already seen, that transaction was the cause of his first taking a mortgage from the Rev. Bernard Wilson, of Newark-upon-Trent, although it was not until 1745 that that gentleman purchased outright the two manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn and the Wick estates. Mr. Wilson nevertheless came to live at Wyke House as a tenant of the Hazlewoods some two or three years before he purchased the properties outright, and became the Squire of the village in right of his being the lord of both manors. He appears to have continued on in residence at Wick up to some few years before his death at Newark-upon-Trent in 1772.

The Rev. Bernard Wilson had in 1764, during his stay at Wyke House, added to his estates two small freeholds—one belonging to John Smith, which is represented by the homestead (now cottages)

and buildings opposite to the village smithy, and the other belonged to the Sherwoods, and consisted of the village smithy, the house and garden, which, as we all know, is now, and from a time previous to that date had been, tenanted by the Sherwoods, always village blacksmiths, and one generally parish clerk and leader of the choir.

When I was a boy, "Old Sherwood," as he was always known to those of my generation—then a man of about 80, and, I take it, grandfather of the present blacksmith—combined in his own person the offices of parish clerk, sworn constable, and village blacksmith. His voice was getting old and thin, but he persisted in leading the choir, and would not relinquish this honour to his son James, who supplied the music for Wick Church in the shape of a flute, and up in the gallery.

I remember one day the old man giving out the hymn from his half-deck under the pulpit, but unfortunately he and his son had forgotten to compare music with hymn; so the flute went off with a long-metre tune, whilst the hymn to be sung was only short metre. However, the old man was equal to the occasion; the end of the first line was "Jacob," so he put it all right by singing "Ja-fol-the-diddle-i-do-cob," and so on throughout each verse.

At the death of Mr. Wilson in 1772, all his Wick estates, including these two freeholds, passed to his nephew, Robert Wilson Cracraft, of Newark-upon-Trent, and of Hackthorne, county Lincoln. These Cracrafts still own and reside at Hackthorne, county Lincoln.

Robert Wilson Cracraft, to whom the estates were demised by the Rev. Bernard Wilson, does not ever seem to have taken up his residence at Wyke House, and in the few years that elapsed between the death of Mr. Wilson and the purchase by Richard Hudson of the estates the house was either let, or more probably the house was tenanted by a Mr. William Bell, in preference to having it shut up. This William Bell was a tenant on the Wick estates, and also held under the manor of Binholme; but, judging by his handwriting, he was a man much better educated than the general run of farm tenant of those days, and seems to have made a fair fortune. He lived on at a farm-house in Wick, and held under Richard Hudson I. until near the end of the XVIIIth cen-

tury, when he retired from farming, and will always have his name carried down the centuries by hunting-men in consequence of his having built that castellated building on Bredon Hill just above Kemerton Quarries to end his days in. He called it by the grandiloquent name of "Bell's Castle," but it was promptly dubbed by those who saw it "Bell's Folly," and that is the name it has been known by ever since.



CHAPTER XI.

The Hudsons.



XI.

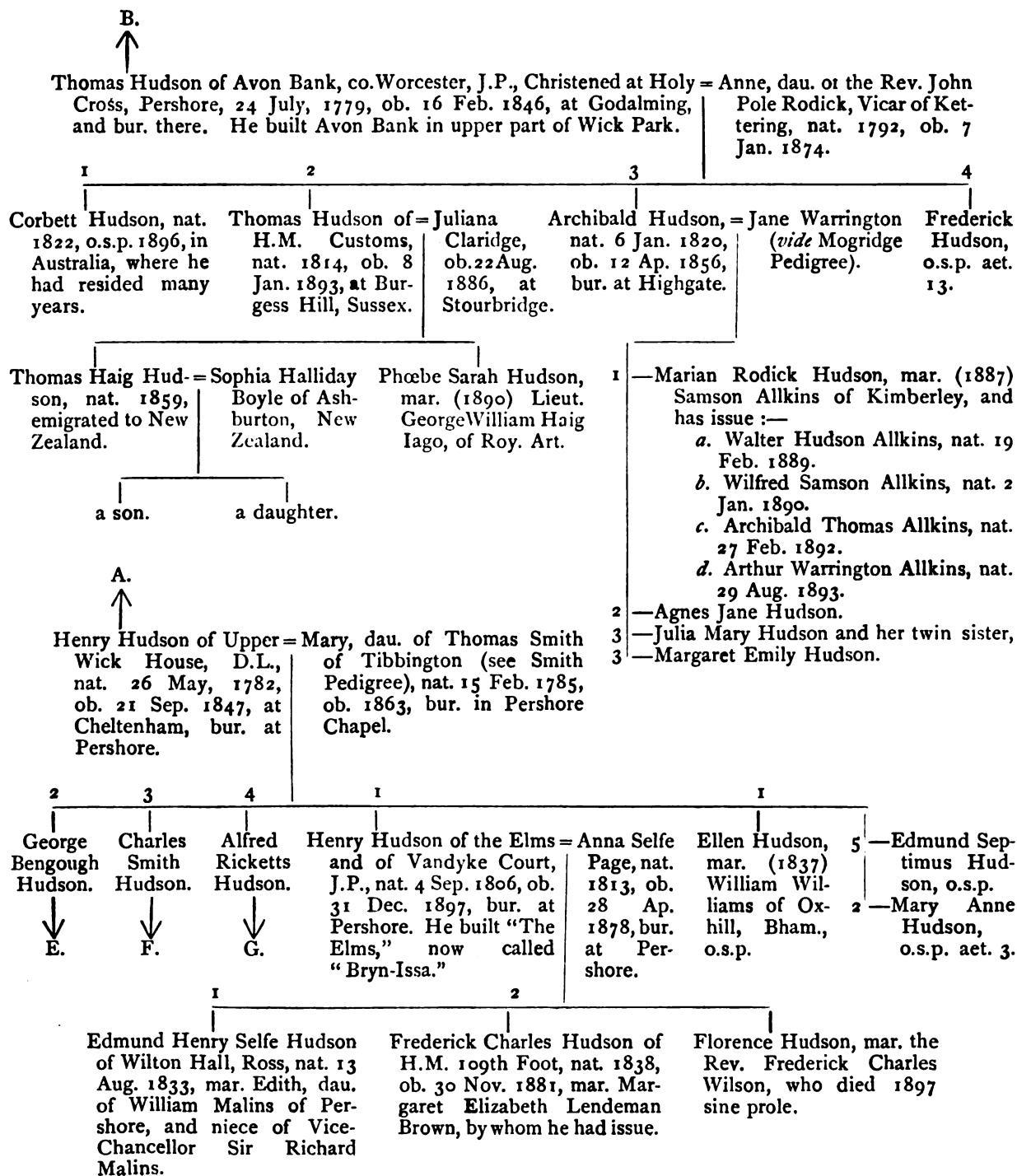
PEDIGREE OF HUDSON OF WICK.

THOMAS HUDSON of Upton-on-Severn, whose family had held = Anne (surname unknown).
land for several generations in Strensham, Castle Morton,
and Upton-on-Severn, in the co. of Worcester, nat. (*temp.*)
1690, ob. Mar. 1755.

5	1	3		4	2
John Hudson.	Samuel Hudson.	Benjamin Hudson of Upton-on-Severn, nat. (<i>temp.</i>) 1719. Will dated 1749, ob. 1761.	= unknown.	Joseph Hudson, ob. 1760.	William Hudson. a dau.

1		2	1	2
Richard Hudson of Wyke House, Pershore, in the co. of Worcester, J.P., D.L., Lord of the Manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, nat. (<i>temp.</i>) 1744, ob. 11 Feb. 1804, bur. at Pershore. He bought the Wick Estates from the Hazlewoods; he was Chairman of Quarter Sessions, and several times nominated for High Sheriff of the Co.	= Eleanor, dau. of Thomas Harris of Broughton Hackett, co. Wor. nat. 1742, ob. 1818, mar. 28 Jan. 1765, at Broughton Hackett. She was heiress to large estates in Broughton Hackett, Flyford Flavel, North Piddle, and Pershore.	2. Benjamin Hudson.	1. Elizabeth Hudson.	2. Eleanor Hudson.

	1		5	4
2 — Benjamin Hudson, Christened at St. Andrew's, Pershore, 17 Ap. 1775, bur. there 25 July, 1785.	Richard Hudson of Wyke House, J.P., Lord of the Manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, Christ ^d at St. Andrew's, Pershore, 2 Feb. 1773, ob. 15 Feb. 1850, bur. in Pershore Abbey.	= Sarah Evans, sister to Thomas Evans of Shinewood House, co. Salop, nat. 1778, ob. 1 Jan. 1834, bur. in Pershore Abbey.	Henry Hudson, nat. 16 Nov., 1782, ↓ A.	Thomas Hudson, nat. July, 1779, ↓ B.
3 — Thomas Harris Hudson, Christ ^d at Holy Cross, Pershore, 14 July, 1777, bur. at St. Andrew's, 21 Nov. 1777.				
1 — Eleanor Hudson, Christ ^d at St. Andrew's, 16 Mar. 1767, ob. 14 Mar. 1776.				
2 — Elizabeth Hudson, Christ ^d at St. Andrew's, 15 Jan. 1769, ob. 26 Oct. 1782.	Maria, o.s.p.	Richard Hudson of Wyke House, J.P., Lord of the Manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, nat. 1814, ob. 2 May, 1854, in London, bur. at Brompton.	= Eutinia, dau. of Baron Gustavus de Nolcken (see Nolcken Pedigree) nat. She mar. as second husband, Mr. Martin of London, but had no issue by him. Ob. 1884, bur. at Kensal Green.	
3 — Eleanor Hudson, ob. cælebs, Aug. 12, 1779.			Laura Hudson.	
4 — Maria Hudson, Christ ^d at Holy Cross, Pershore, 14 July, 1777, bur. Pershore Chapel, 20 Dec. 1791.				



E.
↑

George Bengough Hudson = 1st, Frances Mary, the dau. of Charles Oldaker of Pershore (see of Wick and of Bricklehampton Court, nat. 13 Aug. 1809, ob. at Broadway, 10 July, 1883, bur. at Wick. 2nd, Sarah Maria Amelia, dau. of Mark Henry Mogridge of Sidmouth, and widow of George Cole of Wellesford House, Somerset (see Mogridge Pedigree).

	1	4	2	3
1 — Frances Mary Ann Hudson.	Thomas Hudson, ob. cæl. 1835.	Thomas Hudson, nat. 12 Jan. 1839, o.s.p. 31 Dec. 1863.	Harvey Albert Hudson, nat. 18 July, 1841, o.s.p. 1888.	
2 — Susan Hudson, ob. cælebs 1834.				
3 — Susan Louisa Hudson, now of Preston House, Pershore, mar. 1868, Hugh (youngest son of Capt. Charles Robinson, R.N., and grandson of Admiral Robinson), o.s.p. 1888, bur. at Wick, late of the 13th Light Infantry (Prince Consort's Own).				
4 — Ellen Claridge Hudson, mar. 1861, Martin, third son of William Woodward (both of Pershore), nat. 4 June, 1836, and has issue:— (a.) Walter Herrick Woodward, nat. 20 Aug. 1872. (b.) Henry Martin Mogridge Woodward, nat. 21 Nov. 1874. (c.) Mary Anne Claridge Woodward. (d.) Frances Ellen Woodward. (e.) Ada Bridget Woodward. (f.) Laura Eva Woodward. (g.) Edith Clara Woodward.	Charles Edward = Mogridge Hudson of Richmond-on-Thames, nat. 19 April, 1845.	Emily Augusta, dau. of Samuel Barker Whitehead of Ryde, I. of W., mar. 24 Oct. 1871, at St. Mary of the Angels, Bayswater (see Whitehead and Bennett Pedigrees).		
5 — Jessie Hudson, o.s.p. 1840.	George Vincent Hudson, Catholic Priest, of Coleshill, Warwickshire, nat. 27 Sep. 1873.	Charles Edward Hudson, Sub-Lieut. R.N.R. nat. 13 Dec. 1874.	Gabrielle Clare Hudson.	Sybil Ann Louise Hudson.

F.
↑

Charles Smith Hudson of Upper Wick = Sarah Ellen, dau. of H. B. Whitehouse (see House, nat. 1810, ob. 31 July, 1891, bur. at Wick. Smith pedigree), nat. 28 Feb. 1829, ob. 12 Oct. 1888, bur. at Wick.

	1	3	4
Charles Henry Hudson, nat. 23 May, 1853, ob. cælebs.	Ellen Annie Emily Hudson, mar. 9 Aug. 1894, Harold Thomas, son of F. B. Adams of Croydon, and has issue:— 1. Charles Harold Noel Adams. 1. Sarah Annie Mary Adams. 2. Esther Mary Adams. 3. Dorothea Mary Adams.	Charles Henry Bickerton = Hudson, of Holy Rood, Oxford, Vicar of St. Barnabas, Oxford, nat. 5 Aug. 1861. Alban John Benedict Hudson, 22 Jun. 1893.	Caroline, dau. of Thomas Mills of Kingswinford, Staffordshire. Howard William Hudson of Oxford, nat. 19 Mar. 1864, mar. 8 July, 1896, Anne Constance, dau. of Geo. Moore Taylor of Malvern.
Alfred Edwin Hudson, nat. 1 Aug. 1856, ob. cælebs.			
A son, obit. cælebs, 14 Dec. 1870.			

G.



Alfred Ricketts Hudson of Wyke House, Pershore, = Caroline Elizabeth, dau. of Edmund
Lord of the Manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Wells Oldaker (see Oldaker Pedigree).
Waryn, nat. 20 July, 1823.

Edith Annie Hudson, mar. 1882 Thomas Arthur
Ludlow-Hewitt of Clancool, co. Cork, J.P.,
and has issue:—

1. Alfred Arthur Thomas Ludlow-Hewitt,
nat. 3 Aug. 1884.
2. Edgar Rainey Ludlow-Hewitt, nat. 9
June, 1886.
3. Henry Balfour Cedric Ludlow-Hewitt,
nat. 17 May, 1888.
1. Edith Caroline Annette Ludlow-Hewitt.
2. Mary Dorinda Elizabeth Ludlow-
Hewitt.

Alfred Henry Hudson of The = Lydia Ellen, dau. of William
Abbey, Pershore, Lieut.- Bagnall of Hamstead Hall,
Colonel, Worcester Militia, Stafford, J.P., D.L. (see
J.P., nat. 18 Aug. 1850, mar. Smith Pedigree).
at Handsworth, 1872.

- 1 — Alfred Henry Burnell Hudson, nat. 14 July, 1875.
- 2 — William Warren Hudson, nat. 3 Dec. 1876.
- 3 — Arthur Cyril Hudson, nat. 6 Mar. 1879.
- 4 — Aubrey Wells Hudson, nat. 1 Ap. 1883.
- 1 — Evelyn Mary Hudson.
- 2 — Edith Isabel Hudson, mar. William Edward Derrington
Bell of The Cedars, Kempsey, J.P., Capt. Worcester-
shire Militia, nat. 20 Mar. 1874, son of Major-General
Edward W. Derrington Bell, V.C., C.B., and has
issue:—
(a.) Alma Violet Derrington Bell.
- 3 — Caroline Maud Hudson.
- 4 — Gwenneth Hudson.
- 5 — Mary Hudson, ob. cælebs.

ARMS OF HUDSON OF WICK.

Quarterly, 1st and 4th Gu. on a fesse or, betw. 3 Boar's Heads er. ar. as many Lions ramp. sa.

* 2nd and 3rd, Per fesse engrailed ar. and sa. in chief 3 Lion's heads er. and in base 3 crosses pattee counterchanged.

Crest. A Lion ramp. holding betw. forepaws a Boar's head er. all ppr.

* See further on in Chap. XII.

Wyke House, with the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn and the other estates at Wick, came into the Hudson family in 1776, Richard Hudson I., then resident at Pershore, having purchased the same. A full pedigree of the Hudson family precedes this.

From the early part of the XVIIth century we find Hudsons, ancestors of the family, settled in the hundred of Pershore, at Strensham, Castle Morton, and Upton-on-Severn, as freeholders. Before this date the name is hardly known in the county of Worcester, in that the family had originally come from Yorkshire, being a branch of the Hudsons in that county, and they had probably come south in consequence of the intimate connection that Yorkshire had in those days with southern Worcestershire and the whole district of the Cotswolds.

In the Rolls Court [21 Chas. II., Michaelmas Term], Feet of Fines :—

“ Final agreement made at Westminster from the day of St. Michael in three weeks, 21 Chas. II. (1669), before John Vaughan and others, between John Hudson and others, plaintiffs, and Richard Hudson and Margaret his wife and others, deforciant, of 3 messuages, 3 gardens, 2 orchards, 65 acres of land, 11 acres of meadow, 24 acres of pasture and common of pasture . . . in Strensham and Upton-on-Severn, whereupon, &c.”

It then follows the usual language of Feet Fines, which are of course a final record in the King's Courts of the conveyance of land from one person to another.

Rolls Court, Feet of Fines, 21 Chas. II., Michaelmas Term :—

“ Between John Chauntrell and Richard Heath, plaintiffs, and Overton Hudson and others, deforciant, of, &c.”

36 Chas. II., Easter :—

“ Final agreement made at Westminster from the day of Easter in 15 days, 36 Chas. II. (1684), before Thomas Jones and others, between Chas. Cocks and others, plaintiffs, and others, with Margaret Hudson, spinster, deforciant, of, &c.” Houses and land in the parishes of Upton-on-Severn and Severn Stoke.

11-12 George II., Trinity Term (1738) :—

“ Between Benjamin Hudson and others, plaintiffs, and John Hurst and others, deforciant, of 5 messuages, 3 cottages, 4 barns, 3 stables, 7 gardens, 4 orchards, 12 acres of land, 10 acres of meadow, 12 acres of pasture, and

common of pasture, &c., &c., in the parishes of Upton-on-Severn and Castle-morton, whereupon, &c."

11 George II., Michaelmas (1738):—

"Between Samuel Hudson and others exors., plaintiffs, and Joseph Hudson and Sarah his wife and others, deforciant, of 3 messuages, 1 cottage, 4 barns, 4 stables, 1 loft, 3 gardens, 3 orchards, 25 acres of land, 3 acres of meadow, 6 acres of pasture, and common of pasture, &c., &c., in the parish of Upton-on-Severn."

St. Swithin's Church at Worcester was pulled down in 1733, but of the monument-tombs then existing in the church there was Richard Hudson, who died Oct., 1697; Mary Hudson, who died Sept., 1701; and William Hudson, who died June, 1715, aged 52.

William Hudson was instituted Incumbent of Cure Wyard, in the west of the county, 31 Aug., 1759.

Of these Hudsons of Severn Stoke and Upton, was Thomas Hudson, of Upton-on-Severn, who was born about 1690, and died March, 1755. His will, dated 14 June, 1739, gives to his wife Anne a legacy and the use of all his furniture until his son John attains 21. He gives legacies to his sons John and Joseph, and satirically leaves to his three granddaughters, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anne Batchelor, the sum of £42, which their father owes him on a promissory note; all else he leaves to his son Samuel Hudson, whom he makes his executor.

This Thomas Hudson had five sons, Samuel, William, Benjamin, Joseph, and John, and one daughter. Of these sons, Samuel Hudson, who died in 1760, and whose will says "through ye goodness of God have had my successes, tho' wake in body," leaves a legacy of £100 each to his three Batchelor nieces, and everything else to his brother Joseph. And the brother Joseph, who died in Oct., 1772—his will being dated four months earlier—leaves to his wife Sarah a life interest in his real and personal estate. To his son Samuel he bequeaths his largest silver tankard and Gill's Exposition of the Bible, saying that he leaves him so little because he has already by deed settled on him part of his real estate. To his daughter Sarah he leaves £200 and (subject to the use of the widow) his silver plate and china, and he appoints his nephew, Richard Hudson, one of the trustees and executors under his will. This will was proved by Richard Hudson I., then resident at Pershore.

Another son of Thomas Hudson was Benjamin Hudson (the father of Richard Hudson I., who bought the Hazlewood estates at Wick). This Benjamin Hudson—who is in our direct male line of ancestors—died at Upton, January, 1761, his will having been made 14 April, 1749. By this he gives legacies to his three nieces, Elizabeth, Mary, and Anne Batchelor, and to his brother Samuel, which further proceeds:—

“Item, I give to my son Richard my diamond ring and snuff box with gold hinges, and his mother's wedding ring. Item, I give to my daughter Elizabeth my gold chain and one mourning ring; to my daughter Eleanor my silver pint, four new silver spoons and one mourning ring; to my son Benjamin my silver tankard. Item, I give the rest of my plate and all my household goods equally between my two daughters. Item, I give to my son Benjamin and my two daughters £400 apiece*, to be raised out of my personal estate . . . to be paid them on respectively attaining 21 or marrying with consent of my executors. Item, I give and bequeath to my said son Richard the residue of my personal estate, to be paid to him when he shall attain 21.”

He then makes certain provision for the education of his children, and he leaves the whole of the rest of his real and personal estate in trust for his son Richard, whom he makes his general heir for all residues. The executors are his brothers Samuel and Joseph, and William Chandler.

Richard was not only his eldest son, but he was his most beloved and valued son. The father seems to have entirely appreciated the over average intellect that Richard was possessed of, and he secured for him special opportunities for education, which the boy evidently took the fullest advantage of.

In 1764 (to follow the modern style of the *Morning Post*) a marriage was arranged between Mr. Richard Hudson, of the parish of Upton-on-Severn, and Eleanor, daughter of Thomas Harris, Esquire, of Broughton Hackett, both in Worcestershire. This marriage was duly solemnized in the parish church of Broughton Hackett on the 28th January, 1765, under special license from the Bishop of Worcester. The special licenses of

* It was a similar amount to this that Queen of England—as her share of his the well-to-do Knight, Sir Thomas Parr, property. left to his daughter Katherine—afterwards

those days contained severe penalties, I therefore give an excerpt from this one :—

“Marriage License granted by the Chancellor to the Bishop of Worcester, 26 January, 1765, for marriage to be performed at Broughton Hackett. Richard Hudson, of the parish of Upton-on-Severn, and Wakeman Long, of same parish, bind themselves in £1,000 that there is no impediment for marriage of Richard Hudson as above, being of the age of 21 and upwards [it is first written 22 and then erased], to Eleanor Harris, of Broughton Hackett, Co. Worcester, aged 22 and upwards, spinster.”

Miss Eleanor Harris was at that time an orphan and heiress to a large amount of real property in the county north of Pershore, her father being of the family of Harris, who for several centuries had held large estates in north Worcestershire, and generally farming their properties themselves. Her guardian was the Rev. John Ash, LL.D., minister of the Baptist Chapel at Pershore, a man of much learning, and who, amongst other works, compiled a Dictionary (1775) including most canting and provincial words, but which is best known by his blunder under the word “curmudgeon^b.” He was evidently a man of tact and intelligence, for the members of the Pershore Chapel had divided into two parties, and a feud, with the usual full allowance of the opposite of Christian charity, was creating a scandal in the neighbourhood when Dr. Ash was sent up from Bristol to smooth matters over and make peace. He came to Pershore in 1746, and died there, March, 1779, aged 55.

The Rev. John Ash was trustee as well as guardian for Mrs. Richard Hudson before she married, and there is filed in the Court of Common Pleas a “Feet of Fines” :—

“On the morrow of St. Martin’s, 7 George III. (12 Nov. 1766), recording the transfer to Richard Hudson and Eleanor his wife of 9 messuages, 13 barns, 6 stables, 3 dovehouses, 9 gardens, 15 orchards, 500 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, 150 acres of pasture, and common of pasture, &c., &c.” A portion of the real estate of Miss Eleanor Harris, and lying in the parishes of Broughton Hackett, Flyford Flavell, North Piddle, Holy Cross in Pershore, and Castle Morton.

In reference to this transfer, and to the uses to which the pro-

^b See Dictionary of National Biography.

perty was to be put, an indenture is made 7 Jan., 1767, between John Ash and Richard Hudson and his wife; and later, on the 24 March, 1775, a deed-poll is duly executed by Richard and Eleanor Hudson, and both are enrolled in the Rolls Court, 12 Oct., 1775. These two deeds are lengthy, but as they are of much interest to any one studying these matters, they will be found, or rather the greater portion of them, in the Appendix (No. II.). They throw much light on the first devolution of the Wick property amongst the Hudsons, and the second deed is a permanent record of the high estimation that Richard Hudson was held in by his wife, for within ten years of the marriage she waived all rights she had under her marriage settlement, and placed the whole of her property absolutely under the control and disposition of her husband.

Soon after his marriage, Richard Hudson took up his residence in Pershore, and his children, Eleanor, Elizabeth, Eleanor II., Richard, and Benjamin, were all born there; the others were born at Wyke House.

Living in Pershore is synonymous to wishing to own Wyke House and estates, and as, in 1776, the Rev. Bernard Wilson (who had bought the estates from Mr. James Hazlewood) was dead, and his heir—whose chief family-seat was Hackthorne, in Lincolnshire—was prepared to part with the Wick manors and estates, Wyke House, the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, with other property in Wick, including certain leaseholds of the Westminster manor of Binholme, were purchased by Richard Hudson I., who at once went into residence at Wyke House.

The Indenture of Conveyance was dated 4 Jan., 1776, and an excerpt containing all that is interesting in it will be found in the Appendix (No. III.). The property consisted of Wyke House, described as commonly known by the name of Wick Park; the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn; also the old manor house of Wyke Waryn^c, with the various farm houses and cottages, these last being identified by giving the names of the present and previous tenants, which are very interesting to any one learned in the genealogies of one's neighbours at Wick.

It must be borne in mind that at that time the village did

• The present Upper Wick House.

not appear anything like what it does now, in that with the exception of the demense lands around the manor house, the paddocks and orchards around the homesteads, and the small enclosures around the cottages, the whole parish was unenclosed, which is very clearly indicated in the schedule of valuation, dated Lady Day, 1743, already set out in the previous chapter; in fact, with the exception of the home fields above mentioned, the bulk of the lands in the village were cultivated in much the same manner as they had been in Saxon days.

By the middle of the XVIIIth century, the owners of land were beginning to feel the benefit of the more settled state of the country. The unsettling effects of the large transfers of land at the dissolution of the Monasteries, of the religious persecutions following thereafter, of the large recusancy fines, of the civil war, and of the interregnum of Oliver Cromwell had passed away; and in addition to the rivers being locked and made navigable, the good turnpike roads which, commenced about 1680, were beginning to spread throughout England, causing an industrial improvement which reacted on the agricultural districts. Also the latter half of this same century was not only the period that saw most of the enclosures carried out, but it was the period when swede turnips and other root crops were commenced to be grown in England, together causing a rapid advance in the amount of produce coming from the land.

Bernard Wilson had, in 1745, paid James Hazlewood £19,379 for the whole of his property in Wick, Bricklehampton, Bengeworth and Offenham, and although during his life he added to the Wick part of the estates and improved them, still this Wick portion only was bought by Richard Hudson I., in 1776, for £17,960, which, of course, shows a material rise in values during these years of the middle of the XVIIIth century.

At the same time, these sums paid in the middle of the XVIIIth century are little guide to the value of the property, say in the middle of the past century. The intrinsic value of gold had increased very materially from 1750 to 1850, and in the period 1776—1810, over £50,000 had been spent by the Hudsons in draining, enclosing and improving, and some of the copyholds of the ecclesiastical manor of Binholme had been enfranchised; nevertheless the area of property that was originally purchased

by Richard Hudson I. in 1776 may be considered in the period 1850—1860 to have been of a value of not less than £120,000.

It may be mentioned here that the court of the manor of Binholme was in 1777 held at Wyke House, evidently for the convenience of Richard Hudson in connection with admitting him to the roll of the manor.

When Richard Hudson bought the Wick estates, he sold most of the properties in Broughton Hackett and in the district north of Pershore that had come to him through his wife ; but at his death, in 1804, he still owned a portion of this property called the Moat, at North Piddle, then tenanted by Phillip Handy and others. However, this property was then sold.



CHAPTER XII.

Richard Hudson 3.



XII.

TURNPIKE roads, which were authorised under an Act of 15 Chas. II. (1675), were first commenced in Worcestershire in 1713. At that time the Bath road from Worcester was so bad that with difficulty four horses could drag a coach four miles from the town, paying moreover 4s. to go through private grounds. The Worcester and London road through Pershore, Bengeworth and Broadway, by reason of floods, the mud of the vale of Evesham, and the hills of Broadway, was no better, the journey taking five days to complete. In 1790, with the new turnpike roads, it took only sixteen hours, which draws the remark from Dr. Nash : "It would be curious to enquire what effect turnpike roads have on the manners and morals of the people. More families, particularly ladies, go now to town, and it is doubtful if this is of advantage to the public or to the persons concerned."

Writing, as I do, over a hundred years later, with the further advance of railways, telegraphs and telephones, I dare not venture on a remark to continue such line of philosophical thought ; but those who run can read, and are able to form their own opinions as to whether the present mad rush to live in towns and to denude the country-side of inhabitants is of benefit either to the present or to future generations, as regard manners, morals, vigour, or general intelligence.

The present high road from Pershore to Evesham through the upper part of Wick parish was built about 1730. From early periods up till then the road passed all through the village of Wick, in fact, the present village street was the old high road to Evesham. The exact route it took in passing through the hamlet is given on page 76, where it shows that it took a curve to the nor'rard from just above the present entrance gate of Wick park, joining the present village road by the Wayland gate, and going north of Wyke House and its pleasures grounds. This, of course, was a much less hilly road than the present one, but it had the dis-

advantage of the sharp corners in the village, and its narrowness, to which may be added the obvious wish of the then owner of Wyke House, Mr. Hazlewood, to stop the high road from running, as it did, so close to his house.

The present shrubbery and the plantations from the bottom of Wick Hill along the road, on both sides more or less, to the top of Andrew's orchard were not put there when the road was first built. They were all planted by Richard Hudson I., about 1780, when he was expending so much on improving his property.

Before this alteration was made in the high road from Pershore to Evesham, Wick Park was bounded on the north by the old high road from Pershore to Evesham; it extended without interruption up the slope of Avon Bank, and included in it a large portion of the grass lands now lying around Avon Bank House; but when the main road was altered to where it is now, and cut the park in two pieces, that part lying south of the new turnpike road was called the Upper Park, and the lower portion (a part of which is the present park to Wyke House) extended to the river Avon.

The original area of Wick Park can be seen by reference to the old county maps of Worcestershire published about 1830.

When, about 1730, the high road to Evesham was built in its present place, Wyke House underwent several material alterations.

At that time the house was much the same as it was when Katherine Parr, the wife of Lord Latimer, lived there in the XVIth century. What is now the front of the house was then the back, and the two wings that run out each side of the present front were continued westwards with the various stabling, servants' quarters, and outbuildings—as was the fashion of manor houses—pretty well to where the sunk fence now is at the end of the lawn.

The present east door opening on to the lawn was then the front door, and the large windows in the banqueting-room and the ante-room faced front; in fact, to walk from the east front of Wyke House to the west front is a journey of 300 years.

The east front is now the same as it was in 1550; it has merely been washed over with a colour-brush in its best attempt to destroy the exquisite colouring of the old red bricks, which we unfortunately know only too well seemed such an eyesore to the English architect of the end of the XVIIIth century.

The west and present front needs little remark. The pulling down of the two extended wings would of course have left the west main walls to be made good. As it now stands it has a fine effect as you come over Pershore bridge, but on a closer acquaintance one realises that it represents the period when Italian stucco, beautiful as it is under the clear skies of southern Europe, was so much the rage in England, as if with the stucco you could import the Italian skies into our more sombre-lighted island.

Previous to this alteration in the house the banqueting-hall had an open roof of oak rafters, witnesses to many a wild carousal, for an examination of them will show the bullets and the buckshot fired up into the roof by those banqueting there.

At the time of altering the position of the front of the house this banqueting-hall was ceiled as we find it now; and although this has taken off some of its beauty, still it remains as handsome and lofty a room as is contained in the county houses of Worcestershire.

The road we call the Timber Lane, but the proper name of which is Wick Road, did not then exist, as it was only set out when the high road was made in its present direction, and to give access down to that end of the village; so that the front of Wyke House, looking east, would have a fair view over its own property. But when the old high road that ran through the present park across the then back of the house was closed, and the Timber Lane had been set out, everything pointed to shifting the front of the house and giving it a look-out across the park to Pershore bridge. Besides, it must be remembered that when this was done there was no house on Avon Bank, which was then only the upper part of Wick Park. When the two wings enclosing the courtyard on the west side of the house were demolished to their present dimensions, that side of the house was more modernized, and the hall door was put in facing where it does now. At the same time the new offices, coach-house, stables, and manorial farm buildings were built some distance away from the house on the east side, where they are now, to replace those that the demolished wings had consisted of, unfortunately relegating the old Manorial Pigeon-house^a to the back of the house, hid from view by the outbuildings, instead of being in full view

^a The present pigeon-house is the ancient Manorial Pigeon-house, which in feudal days had special privileges attached to it.

from the windows of the banqueting-hall, as it had been for many centuries, an added charm to the outlook.

The present porch extending the hall, as also the conservatory, addition to the withdrawing room, were built some thirty years since by Mr. Alfred Ricketts Hudson, the present owner, under the advice of Mr. Samuel Whitfield Daukes, the architect of new Witley Court, built by the late Earl of Dudley.

The main portion of the house is therefore much the same as it was when Katherine Parr (later a Queen of England) spent the first bridal years with her second husband, Lord Latimer, and remained there in seclusion with him when he was in disgrace at Court from his unfortunate Pilgrimage of Grace rebellion.

The gentle but very-much-married Katherine would have dined and supped in the present banqueting-room, but then with an open-timbered roof. From the windows she would have had a full view of the present manorial pigeon-house, and the cosy ante-room would have often held her in the midst of her step-children, working the tapestry at which we know she so much excelled.

It will be of interest to look at some of the local names as at this time.

The oldest name in the village is that of Edgington, which appears from the beginning of the XVIIth century right up to date, and always as yeomen or labourers. The Sherwoods, our renowned blacksmiths, were there at the smithy, as small freeholders, previous to 1740, and they have been blacksmiths in the same house ever since.

The Bushells, whom a passing generation knew well, were cottagers in Wick all through the XVIIIth century, but were originally a county family near Pershore. The Turveys, whom we have all known so long as cottagers in the village, were in the XVIIth century a family with large property the other side of Bredon Hill: so suffer we the ups and downs in life.

In the Survey of Worcester (published 1788) W. Turncliffe, describing the high road from Worcester to Evesham, gives as the only gentlemen's seats, Spetchley Park (Robert Berkeley, Esq.) and Wick (Richard Hudson, Esq., and James Payne, Esq.), the latter residing, as a tenant of Richard Hudson, at Upper Wick House, the old manor house of Wyke Waryn, and for many years the dower house of the Hazlewood family.

Richard Hudson I. was a man of unusual intelligence, as may be gathered from the various suits as to his freehold and manorial rights that he maintained in the superior courts at Westminster, conducting them himself without counsel and invariably gaining the case.

One fight that he won is very characteristic. There was a dispute between the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and himself. The Dean and Chapter, as lords of the adjoining manor of Binholme, claimed manorial rights to the waste lands in Wick, and so, one day, in order to assert their rights, they sent their teams to plough the land, when at once Richard Hudson I. sent his carter and teams and ploughed it back again.

The Dean and Chapter then, to assert their position, erected a pound on the village green, where the school now stands, when Richard Hudson again sent his carter with the team horses and pulled it down flat to the ground. Finding that the lord of the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn was as determined in practice as themselves, the Dean and Chapter then invoked the powers of the superior courts. Richard Hudson, scorning other help, appeared himself, and, although somewhat unusual in those days, pleaded his own case. He did so with such ability that he won the day, discomfited the Dean and Chapter, and firmly established his rights as lord of the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, with rights to the waste of any manor in Wick-near-Pershire, which have vested in the owner of Wyke House ever since.

The Dean and Chapter of Westminster were not wise in their generation, or perhaps I should say in the choice of those who advised them, in that a few years previous—namely, in 1794—the Rev. John Mogridge, the then Vicar of Pershore (and it is a strange coincidence that both plaintiff and defendant were great-grandfather to the writer), brought an action against Richard Hudson I. in reference to a question of tithes which they both claimed.

An enquiry was held in Pershore at the Angel Inn, which is duly noted in the registers of Pershore Church, the result being that Richard Hudson I., as usual, gained the day, and continued in the enjoyment of his tithes. I am afraid that this dispute with my—let us call it firm—maternal great-grandfather was the cause of Richard Hudson attending chapel the latter years of his life. His wife, Eleanor Harris, was of a Nonconformist family, but he was

of the Church of England, and every one of their children were baptized, as infants, in Pershore Church ; however, after this enquiry he attended church no longer.

As the XVIIIth century was just passing out, a few years before the death of Richard Hudson I. the great movement of the time in country districts was the enclosure of open lands. A reference to the valuation made of the Wick property^b in James Hazlewood's time [1743] will show how little of the land was enclosed, and how much of it consisted of grazing rights on the common land. In 1790 upland pasture rented at about 20s. per acre, and meadows under 30s., whilst in the period 1850-60 the same would be worth 50s. and over 60s. respectively. Unfortunately, the last twenty years have seen a tremendous ebb in the rental value of these lands.

The arms borne by Richard Hudson I., and of which an engraving is given on the frontispiece, are :—

Quarterly. 1st and 4th Gu. on a fesse or betw. 3 boar's heads er. ar. as many lions ramp. sa. 2nd and 3rd per fesse engrailed ar. and sa. in chief three lion's heads er.^c and in base 3 crosses pattee counterchanged. Crest, a lion ramp. holding between fore-paws a boar's head er. all ppr.

They are of course, 1st and 4th, the original Hudson arms ; quartering, 2nd and 3rd, the arms of Bengough, after which family the writer's father was named George Bengough.

As has already been seen, the family originally came from Yorkshire. In a manuscript armoury, being a register of arms as extant at the Yorkshire Visitation of Heralds in the XVIth century, we find entry as follows :—"Ebor. Hudson. Gu. on a fesse or between 3 boar's heads coupé ar. 3 lions ramped sa." This book^d is in Heralds' College, and is the result of their own visitations. The slight difference of "coupé" and "erased" is immaterial : they were not so careful of these matters in those days, or it might be the result of a careless engraver or writer. Henry Hudson, who was created a baron-knight by Charles II. on 3rd July,

^b See Chapter X.

^c In an old blazoning made about the beginning of last century the 3 lions' heads in chief are given as Gules. This I think is clearly an error, arising from the crossed

lines for Sable being indistinct, and mistaken for the vertical lines representing Gules.

^d By the courtesy of Dr. Marshall, Rouge Croix, shewn me in 1888 at Heralds' College,

1660, bore these same arms, and was clearly one of the family. In an Armoury dated 1820, also in the "General Armoury" of Sir Bernard Burke, 1878, the arms of "Hudson" are given:—"Gu. on a fesse or, betw. 3 boar's heads er. ar. as many lions ramp. sa. Crest, a lion ramp. holding between fore-paws a boar's head er. all ppr. Motto, 'Dum Spiro Spero.'" These are also given as the arms of William Hudson, of Frogmore Lodge, Herts.

Antecedent to Richard Hudson I. coming to Wyke House, one of his ancestors had married a Bengough woman, and we find by the "Feet Fines" in the Record Office that there were several Bengoughs living and owning land at Strensham, Upton-on-Severn, and in that neighbourhood during the latter half of the XVIIth century. Also intimate family relations were kept up between the Bengoughs and the Hudsons of Wick up to as late as the time of Henry Hudson I. Thus the reason of the Bengough arms being quartered with the Hudson arms as borne by Richard Hudson I.

By the same Armoury of 1820, the Bengoughs of Wootton-under-Edge arms are given exactly as we quarter them, this being a branch of the family of Bengoughs that the Hudsons had married into before coming to Wick, and who were also from the north. The Bengoughs of Wootton-under-Edge now carry arms slightly varied, but, this branch of the family having settled there, got confirmation of these arms in 1842, and they were differenced on confirmation, as is the custom.

Below is an extract from the College Registers:—

"George Bengough of Tewkesbury, gent. =

George Bengough of the City of Bristol. =

George Bengough of the Ridge, Wootton-under-Edge, Glo'stershire.



Had Confirmation of Arms, 14 Jan., 1842, to him and descendants of his grandfather, viz.:—Ar. 3 lion's heads er. sa. each charged with one Ermine spot or. On a chief indented of the second 3 crosses patée of the first."

It will be noted that the grandfather lived at Tewkesbury,

earlier he lived at Strensham. The marriage with the Bengough family must have been at least two generations before the period of Richard Hudson I., as we have much earlier records of the arms borne by the Hudsons being similarly quartered with the Bengough arms.

The science of Heraldry, which was at about its lowest ebb through the XVIIIth century, has recently acquired a fresh interest, and there is at present a large and increasing amount of literature on this subject; the tendency of which is to show that the Herald Office takes a higher estimation of its jurisdiction than is probably warranted by facts*.

Richard Hudson I. died 12th February, 1804, and was buried at Pershore. An oil painting of him hangs in the large dining-room at Wyke House: he is dressed in a green court dress with lace ruffles. There is also there an oil painting of his wife, Mrs. Eleanor Hudson, who survived him fourteen years, living at Pershore in the enjoyment of her dower. Able and intelligent as he was, and, as we have seen, always willing to tilt a lance, and that successfully, for the safe guarding of his property, either against the ecclesiastical authorities on the one side, or the lawyers on the other side, still Richard Hudson I. was a man of most retiring taste, and the pomp and pageantry of official position were distasteful to him. He, of course, was a magistrate for the county; not less than four times was he placed on the panel for High Sheriff of the county, but he always succeeded, through the then Earl of Coventry, in having his name removed before the day for pricking.

With the landholder of to-day, surrounded by depression in agriculture, such is not uncommon, but in those days it was unusual for any one to wish to keep from the position. No better illustration can be given of the high esteem in which he was held than the action of his wife Eleanor in reference to the property that she had brought him. It was, at marriage, settled on her, and its devolution thereafter was under her control; but few years of their coverture had passed when she denuded herself of this power and placed its devolution entirely under the control of her husband, Richard Hudson I.

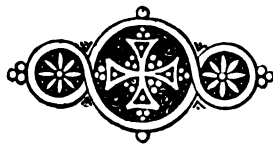
The death of Richard Hudson I. rather induces me to look

* For memorandum on this point, see Appendix IV.

round and note how many families of county position are now resident in the neighbourhood who so lived there in 1776, when Richard Hudson came to reside at Wyke House.

In Wick there are none, in that all houses except those owned by Hudsons have either been built by them or on their land. In Pershore, Fladbury, Throgmorton, Wyre Piddle, Peopleton, there are none; but the Actons[†] hold Wolverton, as they have from a period antecedent to the Conquest. Pirton, Besford, Defford, Birlingham, carry no one now that held position there in those days. In the parish of Eckington there is Wollas[†] Hall, which is owned, tracing through the distaff line, by those who have held it for over 300 years. At Elmley the ownership of the Castle has passed into different hands, and at the Combertons and Bricclehampton no one is to be found. Cropthorne completes the circle of about four miles round Wick; the ancient family of Dinely lived there then, but they have passed into oblivion, and the parish knows no one of position whose family was there when Richard Hudson I. bought the Wick Manors.

[†] Both the Actons of Wolverton and— of Wollas Hill had always been of the old up till about 40 years ago—the Hanfords Faith.



CHAPTER XIII.

Richard 33. and Thomas Hudson.



XIII.

AT the death of Richard Hudson I., in 1804, the whole estate was divided amongst his three surviving sons, Richard, Thomas and Henry. Richard Hudson II., as the eldest son, was left Wyke House, with the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn as his portion of the estate. Thomas Hudson took for his share the upper portion of the Park where Avon Bank now stands, and the portion of the estate towards Comberton*. This part of the parish had up till then been chiefly held in common, but when the allotment of land was made by the Wick Award, the greater portion of the land that afterwards comprised Thomas Hudson's share was allotted to the Hudsons in lieu of valuable tithe in the parish—part of the estate that they had bought from the Hazlewoods, who, as has been shown, purchased it from the Crown when that august personality of whom Blackstone says, "The King can do no wrong," had been confiscating the revenues of Pershore Abbey and selling same to his subjects.

Henry, the third surviving son, had allotted to him what is now Upper Wick House, and his share of the land.

Looking back as we do about a hundred years to the date I am dealing with, one is inclined to wonder how it came about that a man like Richard Hudson I., with all his sound ideas, did not entail the landed property on his eldest son, and thereafter on his male heirs in continuous descent, instead of dividing it up as he did in equal shares between his three sons. He clearly had the power to do so, but being a man of sensitive justness, I take it that he acted thus to follow the original intention of his marriage settlements, although against his own ideas. The sub-division of landed property in a family of any standing is generally unfortunate, in this case I think it was especially so. A family may own a county, but if they flourish as the bay-tree

* This should be read as the position after the Wick Award was made in 1807. See Appendix (V.)

in point of families, as do the Hudsons, and always sub-divide equally amongst their children, it will only take two or three generations to bring the individual holding to a cottage garden. Where property is personal perhaps it little matters, but where it is land with a county house there is little doubt that it is in the best interest of every one of the family for it to be entailed. The head of the family keeps up a good and, generation by generation, an improving position, which is of material use in many ways to all the younger branches of the family. This is an age when the man whose only qualification to position is mere money takes a higher place in the minds of many than he has ever done. During the last half century, as a result of the teaching of the Manchester school and its so called Free Trade legislation, the commercial and manufacturing interests have advanced at the expense of the landed interest and of agriculture, with the result of denuding the country of its population, to herd in the big towns. All connected with agriculture, especially the landowners, have been made poorer by hundreds of millions sterling. Still the old county family, poor as it may be, holds the same position of respect and veneration in the minds of the public that the man who can only point to his money-bags never will. Money in itself will not do everything; a man with untold millions can only drive in one carriage at a time; he cannot well have more than two footmen to open his hall door—he could if he liked have fifty, but so doing would only make him the laughing-stock of the very society he is so anxious to get into.

A country life where a man deals chiefly with nature in its varied forces, tends much more to develop one's higher and more sympathetic qualities than the dealings of commerce, with its necessity of living in large towns; whilst it gives greater opportunity of creating tradition and that love of one's birthplace which, put together constitute, in my opinion, the most valuable protection that exists to keep a young man from making an ass of himself when he goes out into the world.

When Richard Hudson II. succeeded to Wyke House and the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn with Wick-juxta-Pershire, the Wick Inclosure Award had just become a reality. In the Appendix (No. V.) is given some particulars of the Act and the Award, with the first assessment thereon:

the Award, with map attached, may be seen at Pershore ^b. While writing I have before me a map of the division of land as at the award. It will have been seen that until the enclosure little of the land was enclosed, except the demesne lands of the lord of the manors, and small enclosures around the homesteads and cottages. The land being so unenclosed, the grazing was ruled by a certain number of allotted heads of stock moving over the whole of the unenclosed land. The parson collected in his tithe in kind, and a large portion of the estate returns of us Hudsons was also tithe that had been confiscated by Henry VIII. In fact pretty well the whole of the land held by Thomas Hudson, and which is now the Avon Bank estate, was land allotted in lieu of tithe that he was the owner of. Tradition generally chooses to associate ill luck with church lands that have got into lay hands; certainly good luck cannot be accused of having fallen in showers upon the owners of the tithe part of the estate during the last century.

The parson of Wick, in lieu of his tithes and money payments, was allotted the land beyond Endon which is now the glebe farm. The chapel wardens of Wick ^c, Charles Hanford of the Hill, John Whood, and Edmond Wigley, had certain small grazing rights in Wyre meadows, so they were each allotted meadow holdings, which accounts for the several small enclosures on the right-hand side of the footpath running across Wyre big meadow to the ferry.

The lord of the manors of Wike Burnell, Wyke Waryn, and Wick-juxta-Pershore (Richard Hudson) was allotted a part of the milestone piece on the Evesham road in lieu of certain of his manorial rights.

William Fell, the ancestor of Mrs. Elizabeth Farmer, whose family for a good part of last century owned a farm at the east end of the village, in the part that is commonly called Owlet's End, then had a farm-holding. John Hatch and Robert Wilson also had small holdings at that end of the village. Richard Wallace had the freehold cottages called "Sycamore," and the Youngs also

^b Some 50 years ago the damp of the Church was effecting the legibility of this document, so it was placed in the muniment room of Mr. A. R. Hudson for safe keeping, where it now lies.

^c The return from this now goes into the Churchwardens' accounts for Church expenses.

had freehold cottages. With practically these exceptions, the Hudsons held the whole of the land of the parish.

Many of the cottages then standing are now no more. Opposite Wick church, half-way between Upper Wick House and the smithy, were some cottages and buildings: they went before my time. Nearly opposite Upper Wick House, on the south side of the village road on the way to the village green, was a whole nest of cottages. They were burnt down when I was a child. A little further on from Glenmore Lodge, on the north side of the road, were several cottages and a homestead. They were burnt down about 1850: others, I believe, have shared the same fate, but I have no record of them.

The cluster of cottages down the road to Assmore were generally the cottages of those independent set of men who originally build a hut on waste land and then exist no one knows how, with the help of a little poaching. The reason for them being there was that close at their doors there used to be a moor, common to the village where the donkeys of those cottiers used to graze. This land at the enclosure was enclosed, and the cottiers compensated in cash, but the name still remained as Assmore. I remember my uncle, Henry Hudson, telling me one day (he was then over 90) that when he was a young man, and in an age of very precise propriety, that the best people called it Aisemore, as being a more delicate word.

Those who remember, some thirty years ago, the good looks of the Cockbill family will not be surprised to hear that during the XVIIIth century their ancestors were not cottagers, but well-to-do yeomen farmers.

Richard Hudson II. was, like his father, a Justice of the Peace for the county. He was much respected, and of course was lord of all the Wick manors. He died in 1850 of a chill that he took whilst standing about in the park superintending some drainage operations. I well remember his funeral, having been taken by my nurse to the shrubbery seat to watch it pass along the park in all the gorgeous but barbaric pomp of six horses caparisoned in black velvet with nodding ostrich plumes on their heads, and cloaked mutes with craped staves walking by their sides. He was buried in Pershore Abbey Church, being the last man to be buried within the church walls, and there is a tablet to his memory on the south wall.

I am fortunate in being the possessor of a walnut secretaire that

belonged to Richard Hudson II., and which previously belonged, I believe, to his father.

The second surviving son of Richard Hudson I. was Thomas Hudson, and on the death of his father, and his being allotted that portion of the property which is now called the Avon Bank estate, he commenced to build on the crest of the hill in the upper part of the park the mansion called "Avon Bank." What justification my great-uncle could have had in his own mind to think that his one-third of the original estate would build and keep up a house such as Avon Bank I cannot say, but he was a fine, handsome man of about six feet four, a great favourite, and being brought up with every want forestalled, evidently he did not realise that it would ever be necessary for him to consider mere matters of ways and means. So the house was built, and kennels for a pack of hounds; and with his four-in-hand he drove merrily through the country to find a bride to grace as *Chatelaine* the new mansion he had built.

His journeys brought him to Town, and one day when he happened to be standing against the rail of Rotten Row, looking at the carriages, George IV. (then Regent) drove by. His Majesty, observing him, ordered his coachman to pull into the kerb, and, addressing Mr. Hudson, said: "Pardon me for speaking before you have been presented, but I wish to tell you that you are the finest man I have seen in my realm."

A little later to this, Thomas Hudson married Miss Anne Rodick, niece of a London banker of that name, and daughter of the Rev. John Tole Rodick, vicar of Kettering, near Wellingborough. This was on the 24th October, 1812, and although he received a fair fortune with her, he was not allowed long to enjoy either it or the charms of his new mansion at Avon Bank. The building of the house had been a heavy pull upon his purse; and besides, and unfortunately, the working trustee under his marriage settlement, a relative of his wife, Archibald Corbett, improperly speculated with and lost most of the corpus of the trust. If in addition to this we realise that Thomas Hudson had no idea of living in any other style than his father did, we are not surprised to find that within twelve years from the death of his father (Richard Hudson I.) the new mansion he had built on Avon Bank and the whole of that portion of the estate that he had inherited was in the market for sale. It was bought in 1816 by Lieutenant-

General Thomas Marriott, of the Hon. East India Company's service, in whose family it has ever since remained.

This General Marriott some years previously, and just after the house had been built by Thomas Hudson, happened, when home from India on leave, to be driving along the road from Pershore to Evesham, and he was so struck with the beauty of the house and site that he remarked if ever he bought a house in England he would like to purchase that one.

Thomas Hudson, after selling the Avon Bank estate, went to live at Northbrook House, Godalming, which house and estate he had purchased, but the last years of his life he spent at Bletchingley, near Reigate, in Surrey, where he died. I have spoken to old tradesmen at Godalming who knew him well. He was so tall that the poor people called him the "Godalming lighthouse."

Of his sons, Corbett, the youngest, was of a roving disposition, and died in Australia in 1896 without issue. Thomas, the eldest son, was in the Civil Service; and Archibald, the second son, married Jane Marion Warrington (see Mogridge pedigree), by whom he had four daughters. He died a short time before the birth of the last two, who were twins.

CHAPTER XIV.

Henry Hudson 3.



XIV.

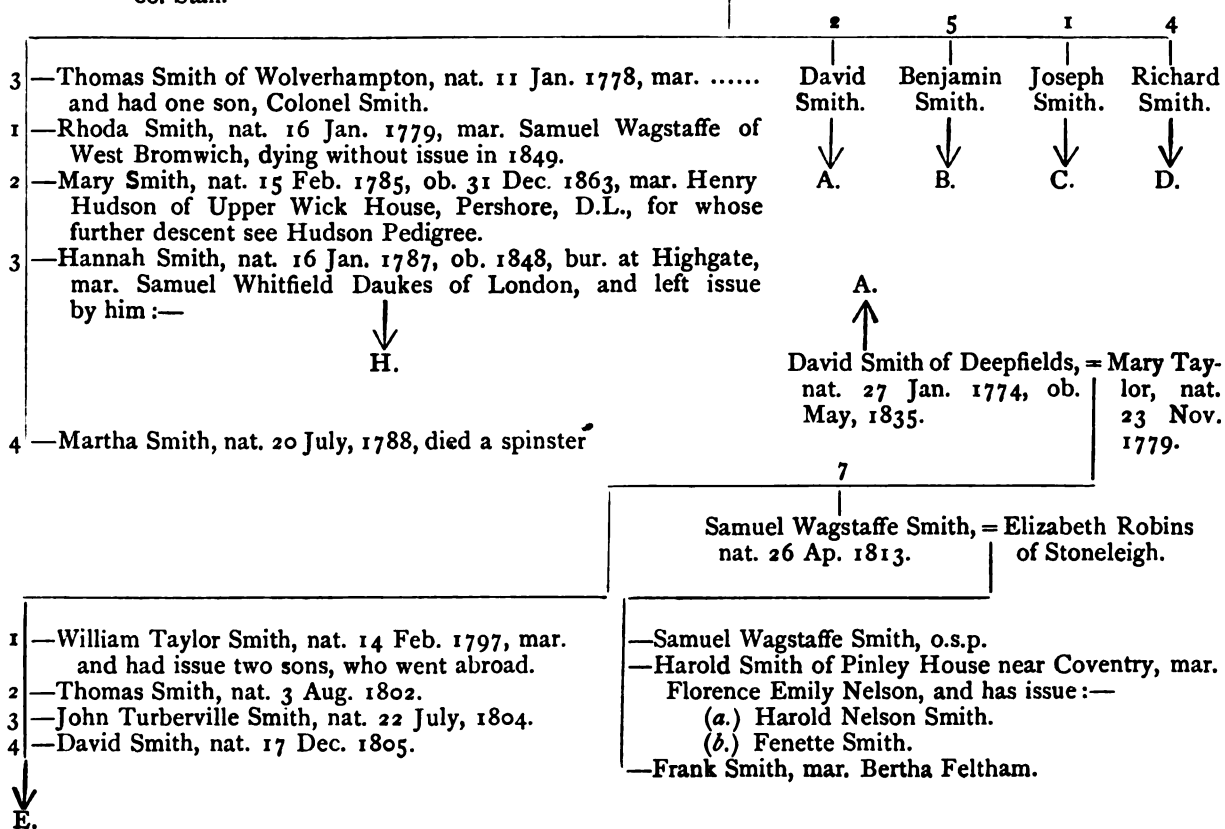
PEDIGREE OF SMITH OF TIBBINGTON,

SHewing THE DESCENT OF

MRS. HENRY HUDSON I.,
MRS. CHARLES SMITH HUDSON, AND
MRS. ALFRED HENRY HUDSON.

RICHARD SMITH = Mary Bache. Sir Thomas Turberville of Tibberton, co. Worcester, Bart., had a daughter, Hannah, who married John Morris, he dying at the age of 96. The issue of this marriage was a daughter *videlicet* :—

Thomas Smith of Tibbington House, Tipton, co. Staff., = Mary Morris, nat. 2 Dec. 1747, mar. nat. 20 July, 1747, ob. 20 Dec. 1808, bur. at Sedgeley. He was an extensive owner of land and houses in the parishes of Tipton, Sedgeley and Bilston, and his mining property was only exceeded in value by that of the Earl of Dudley. He was High Sheriff, co. Staff.



E.
↑

- 5 — David Smith, nat. 20 Ap. 1807.
 6 — Turberville Smith, nat. 13 Mar. 1810, mar. Miss Collis, and had issue :—
 (a.) Mary Smith, who mar. Arthur Wagborne of London, and has two daughters, viz. Ethel and Dora.
 (b.) Harry Turberville Smith, who mar. Miss Neville of London.
 8 — David Smith, nat. 16 Aug. 1815, mar. Miss Downs of Warwick, and has issue :—
 (a.) David Smith. (b.) Frank Smith.
 (c.) Ellen Smith.
 9 — Wade Hampton Smith, nat. 30 July, 1821, mar. Miss Downs, and has issue :—
 (a.) Howard Smith. (b.) William Smith.
 1 — Mary Ann Smith, nat. 3 Oct. 1798.
 2 — Rhoda Smith, nat. 19 May, 1800.
 3 — Martha Smith, nat. 20 Ap. 1808.
 4 — Elizabeth Smith, nat. 22 Oct. 1811.
 5 — Mary Smith, nat. 8 Oct. 1819.

D.
↑

Richard Smith of the = 1st, Elizabeth, dau. of Samuel Fereday, of Ettingshall Park, co. Staf., mar. 11 June, 1811, ob. 22 Nov. 1838. 2nd, Mary Ann, dau. of Richard Emery of Burcott House, Wel- lington, ob. 1868, s.p.

Frederick Smith (who took the = Augusta Emma surname of Shenstone) of Grace, dau. of Sutton Hall, near Lewes, Capt. Hamb- J.P., D.L., High Sheriff of ley Knapp, 5th Sussex, 1888, also J.P., D.I. Fusiliers, mar. of co. Staff., and Fellow of 1873. St. John's Coll., Oxford.

Adela Shenstone.

George Samuel Fereday Smith = Mary Jane, dau. of Grovehurst, Kent, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., J.P., D.L., and High Sheriff, co. Kent, 1884.

of Rich^d Hamp- son, mar. 5 Mar. 1845.

Sarah Smith, = Sir Thomas Dixon Archibald, Judge of H.M. Court of Queen's Bench, then of the Common Pleas; last Chief Justice of the Palatine of Lancaster; nat. 23 Aug. 1817, ob. 18 Oct. 1876.

- 1 — Richard Clifford Smith of Grovehurst, Kent, J.P., Derbyshire, nat. 12 June, 1846, mar. 1 June, 1870, Alice Maud, dau. of Thomas Lever Rushton of Moor Plat, Lancaster.

- 1 —
 2 — (1) Evelyn Mary. (2) Marion Beatrice.

- 1 — Richard George Archibald, ob. June, 1865, æt. 21.
 2 — William Frederick Alphonse Archibald, nat. 17 May, 1846, Master of the Supreme Court, mar. Florence Walbroth, and has issue :—
 (a.) Roderick Thomas Archibald, nat. 8 Oct. 1876.
 (b.) Malcolm George Archibald, nat. 25 Nov. 1878.
 (c.) Norman Cuthbert Archibald, nat. 21 Feb. 1882.
 (d.) Hubert Carl Archibald, nat. 11 Jan. 1883.
 (a.) Ethel Frances Archibald.
 (b.) Cecile Florence Archibald.
 (c.) Ruth Mary Archibald.

- Ellen Emma Archibald, mar. 15 July, 1868, John Magee McNeill, Colonel R.E., nat. 4 Mar. 1837, ob. 30 Sep. 1898, and had issue :—
 (a.) George McNeill, Clerk in H.O. nat. 15 May, 1869.
 (b.) Donald Hugh McNeill, nat. 6 Feb. 1871, Lieut. 19th Bombay Lancers.
 (c.) Archibald Magee McNeill, nat. 20 Mar. 1878.
 (d.) James Duncan McNeill, nat. 29 Ap. 1879.

↓
F.

F.

- 3 — Edward Douglas Archibald, nat. 23 Jan. 1851; mar. Janet Helen, the dau. of Robert Gilchrist Finlay, and has issue :—
 (a.) Robert Douglas Archibald, nat. 2 July, 1881.
 (a.) Constance Helen Margaret Archibald.
 (b.) Phyllis Muriel Cowan Archibald.
 (c.) Elizabeth Mary Archibald.

B.

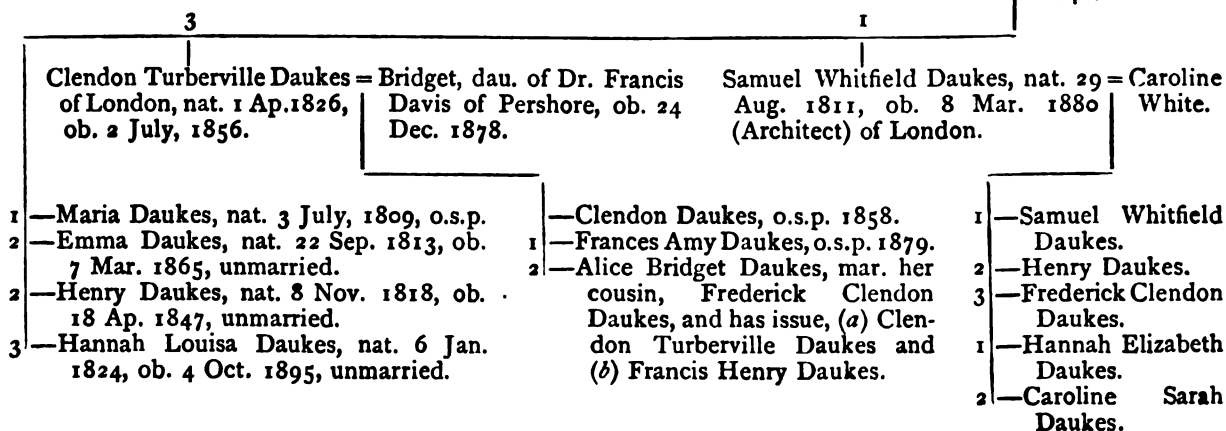
- Benjamin Smith of = Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Tan-y-craig, co. of Casson of Blaenyddoe Carnarvon, nat. 30 Festiniog, J.P., High Ap. 1796, ob. 15 Sheriff of Merioneth, 1828, Feb. 1877, bur. at nat. 26 Feb. 1806, ob. 15 Carnarvon; mar. Dec. 1861, bur. at Carnarvon (for her descent see Appendix VI.). 26 May, 1829.

- 1 — Thomas Casson Smith, Clerk in H.O., o.s.p. 24 Sep. 1870, æt. 39.
 2 — Benjamin Smith, nat. 1834, Aug. 29; mar. 30 Jan. 1864, Eleanor Elizabeth, dau. of Edmund Thomas Perrott of Craycombe House, co. Worcester, and has issue :—
 (a.) Gerald George Perrott Smith, ob. cælebs. 7 March, 1868.
 (b.) Casson Perrott Smith, nat. 30 Mar. 1871.
 (c.) Benjamin Horace Perrott Smith, Clerk in H.O., nat. 21 Mar. 1873.
 (a.) Eleanor Mary Perrott Smith, mar. Charles Stimson of Bedford, Barrister-at-Law, and has issue.
 (b.) Geraldine Ann Perrott Smith.
 3 — Samuel Wagstaffe Smith, M.D., of Pershore, nat. 1835, ob. 12 Aug. 1900; mar. Elizabeth, dau. of Thomas Webb of Stourbridge, J.P., and has issue :—
 (a.) Charles Wagstaffe Smith, nat. 9 July, 1872.
 4 — George Casson Smith, nat. 20 May, 1837, o.s.p. 31 May, 1896, bur. at Carnarvon.
 5 — Richard Smith (who took the surname of Casson) of the Saltwells, Brierly Hill, Major, Staff. Volunteers, nat. 7 June, 1839; mar. 24 Aug. 1865, Mary, dau. of Thomas Webb of Stourbridge, J.P.
 6 — Phillip Smith of Madras, nat. 11 Aug. 1841, ob. 5 Sep. 1891, in Madras; mar. Evelyn Georgina, dau. of George Henry Arnold Neppen of Vezagapatam, and has issue :—
 (a.) Evelyn Camilla Neppen Smith. (b.) Louisa Mary Smith. (c.) Lilian Winifred Smith.
 (d.) Kathleen Casson Smith. (a.) Leyellen Oliver Phillip Casson Smith, nat. 10 May, 1886.

- 1 — Mary Smith, ob. 29 Mar. 1873, mar. 2 July, 1864, William Taylor Morgan of Carnarvon, J.P., M.D., and had issue :—
 (a.) William Frederick Taylor Morgan, nat. 11 Jan. 1866.
 (b.) Hugh Browning Taylor Morgan, nat. 20 Nov. 1866.
 (c.) John Taylor Morgan, o.s.p. nat. 14 Sep. 1870.
 (a.) Mary Elizabeth Taylor Morgan.
 2 — Elizabeth Forster Smith, mar. 15 Sep. 1863, Frederick Muspratt of Seaforth Hall, near Liverpool, ob. 1874, and by him has issue :—
 (a.) Frederick James Muspratt, nat. 23 Mar. 1867.
 (b.) Walter Muspratt, nat. 16 Sep. 1868.
 (a.) Louisa Muspratt.
 (b.) Amy Muspratt.
 (c.) Edith Muspratt.
 3 — Louisa Gordon Smith, mar. 14 Sep. 1871, Edmund Thomas Wigley, son of Edmund Thomas Perrott of Craycombe House, co. Worcester, J.P., nat. 29 July, 1846.

H.

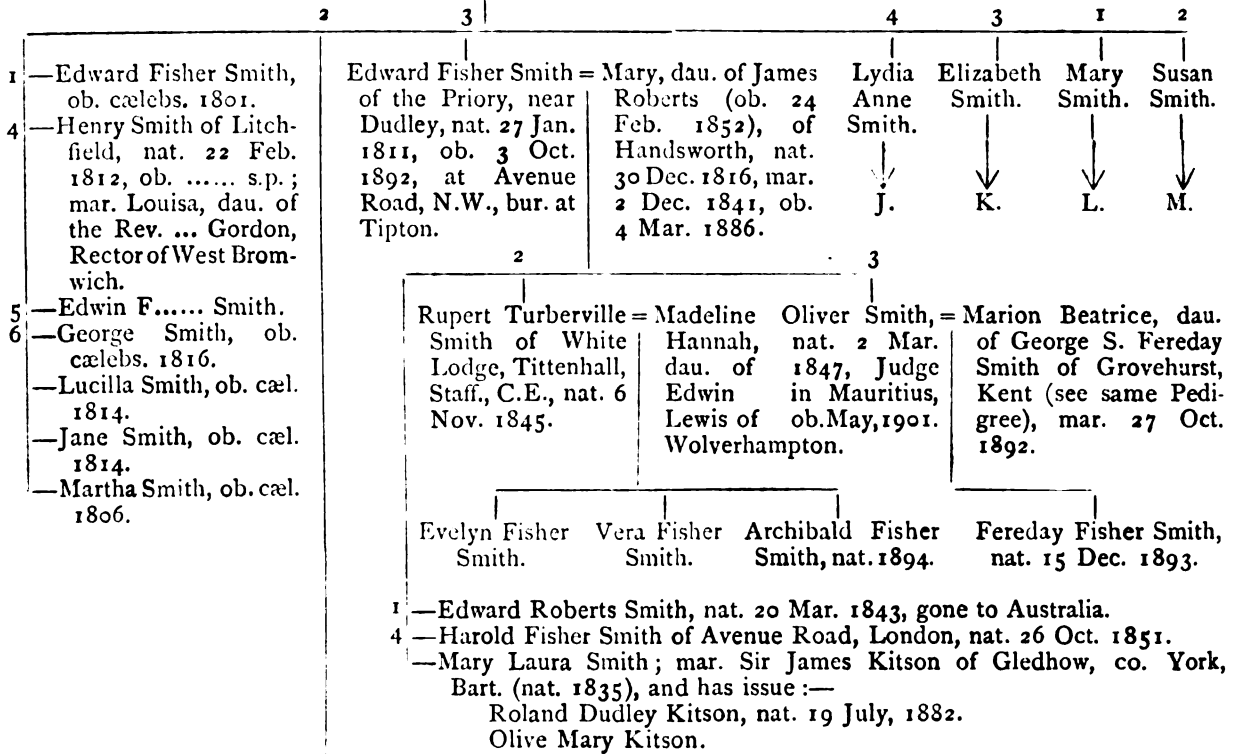
- Hannah Smith, nat. 16 Jan. = Samuel Whitfield 1787, ob. 9 Feb. 1848; bur. Daukes of London, ob. 4 Mar. 1842. at Highgate Cemetery.



M

C.

Joseph Smith of Summerfield House, = Susannah, dau. and heiress of Edward Fisher (the son of Edward West Bromwich, nat. 1 Aug. 1769, ob. 12 May, 1832, buried at Tipton. Fisher, and his wife, Mary, born Saunders) and of his wife, Mary (the dau. of Thomas Bissett, and his wife, Lydia, born Hill), nat. 7 May, 1778, mar. 1 Jan. 1801, ob. 12 Sep. 1843.

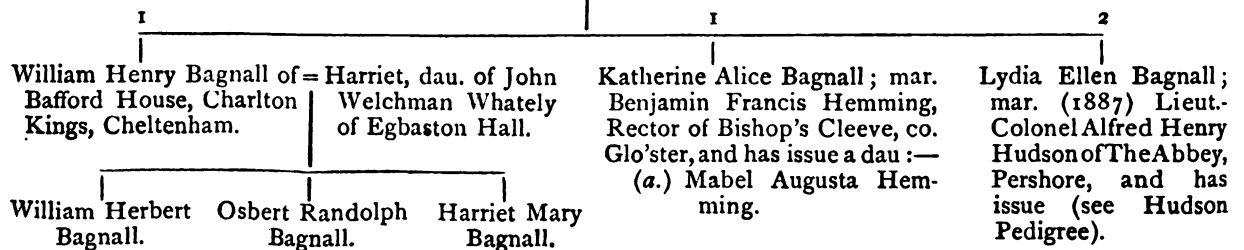


Mary M..... Blain = Joseph Smith of Greenhill House, Handsworth, nat. 1 Aug. 1806, ob. 5 Jan. 1884.

- Richard Wagstaffe Smith of Harborne, nat. 2 Dec. 1836, mar. Florence, dau. of Edwin Whitehouse (see same pedigree), and has issue.
- Susan Smith, nat. 3 Dec. 1839, ob. 1879, mar. Dr. Farncombe of Birmingham, and had issue.

J.

Lydia Ann Smith, nat. 6 June, 1813; mar. 26 Sep. = William Bagnall of Hamstead Hall, Handsworth, J.P. 1838, ob. 26 July, 1888, at Cheltenham. and D.L., co. Staff., nat. 4 Ap. 1797, ob. 12 Aug. 1863.



L.

Mary Smith, nat. 26 Jan. 1803; mar. 22 Sep. = Henry Bickerton Whitehouse of Sedgeley,
1826, ob. 15 Mar. 1855, bur. at Sedgeley. | nat. Mar. 1797, ob. 17 June, 1871.

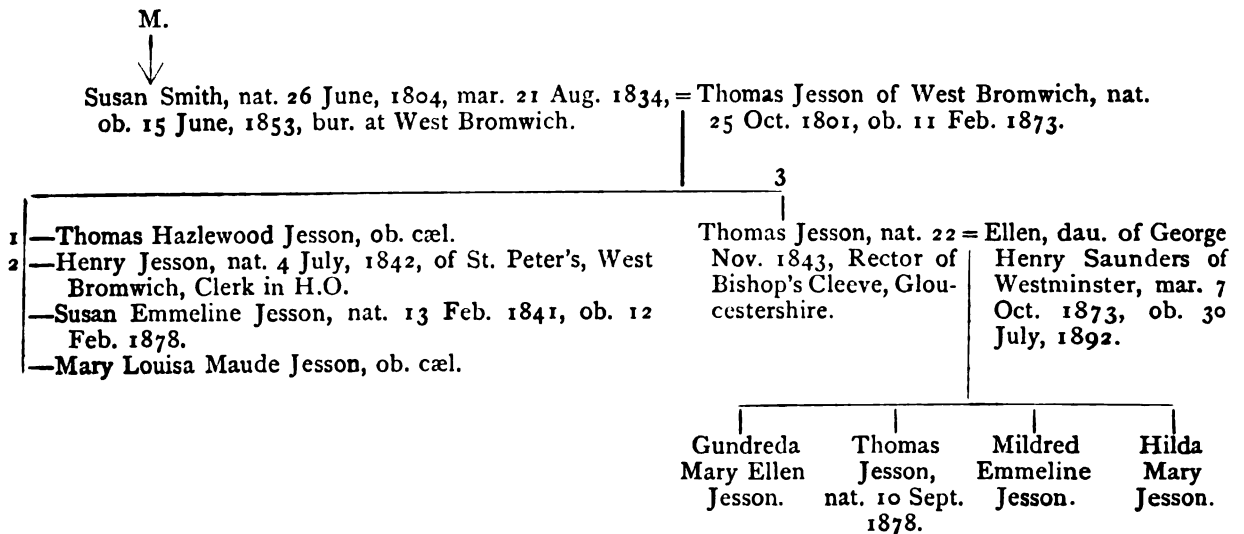
- | | |
|---|---|
| <p>1 —Edwin Smith Whitehouse, nat. 6 Dec. 1827, ob. 1896;
mar. Harriet Fletcher (1851), and had issue :—
(a.) Mary Emily Ellen Whitehouse.
(b.) Florence Edith Whitehouse.
(c.) Constance Whitehouse.</p> <p>1 —Henry Bickerton Whitehouse of Sedgeley, nat. 6 Dec.
1827, ob. 17 Dec. 1867, mar. C. H. dau. of
Thos. Chevasse of Sutton Coldfield, and had issue :—
(a.) Henry Bickerton Chevasse Whitehouse.
(b.) Howard Sidney Chevasse Whitehouse.
(c.) St. John E. Whitehouse.
(a.) Catherine Whitehouse.
(b.) Mary Whitehouse.
(c.) Lilian Whitehouse.</p> <p>2 —Benjamin Whitehouse of Turl's Hill, Sedgeley, nat.
31 Jan. 1831, mar. Susanna M. dau. of the Rev.
W. Lewis, and had issue :—
(a.) Benjamin Whitehouse, ob.
(b.) Lewis Whitehouse.
(c.) Edwin Whitehouse, ob.
(d.) Henry Whitehouse.
(e.) Clendon Whitehouse, ob.
(f.) Earnest O'Brian Whitehouse.
(g.) Herbert Whitehouse.
(h.) Harold Whitehouse, ob.
(i.) Charlie Whitehouse.
(a.) Susanna Whitehouse.
(b.) Mary Whitehouse.
(c.) Alice Whitehouse.
(d.) Grace Whitehouse.
(e.) Meneyn Whitehouse.
(f.) Evelyn Whitehouse.
(g.) Christobel Whitehouse, ob.</p> | <p>3 —Arthur Whitehouse, nat. 5 Dec. 1834, ob.
1896; mar. Harriet Fletcher in 1851, and
had issue :—
(a.) William Henry Smith Whitehouse.
(a.) Emily Whitehouse.
(b.) Annie Ellen Louisa Whitehouse.
(c.) Gertrude Bickerton Whitehouse.
(d.) Maude Whitehouse.</p> <p>1 —Sarah Ellen Whitehouse, nat. 28 Feb. 1829,
ob. 12 Oct. 1888; mar. Chas. Smith
Hudson of Upper Wick House, and for
further descent, see Hudson Pedigree.</p> <p>2 —Mary Whitehouse, nat. 1830, o.s.p. 1841.</p> <p>3 —Susan Emily Whitehouse, mar. 1st, Dr.
Howard Chavasse of Sutton Coldfield,
nat. Aug. 1835, ob. Mar. 1863.
2nd, Dr. J. O'Brien Kough of Shrewsbury,
nat. 1 Feb. 1837.</p> |
|---|---|

K.

Elizabeth Smith, nat. 11 = John James Russell
May, 1808, ob. 8 Mar. of Handsworth, nat.
1893, mar. 5 June, 1834. 24 May, 1807, ob.
26 Ap. 1873.

Mary Elizabeth Russell, = Bartholomew Charles
mar. 5 June, 1866. Gidley of Exeter, ob.
1 Oct. 1888.

- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>1 —James George Russell, ob. cæl. 14 Mar. 1836.</p> <p>2 —Blois de Blois Russell, nat. 6 June, 1837, o.s.p.
3 May, 1860.</p> <p>3 —Hubert Urban Russell, ob. 11 Feb. 1848, æt. 8.</p> <p>2 —Sarah Emily Russell, nat. 3 Jan. 1847, ob.
3 Ap. 1863.</p> | <p>1 —John Gidley, nat. 25 Mar. 1867.</p> <p>2 —Courtenay de Blois Gidley, R.A., nat. 16 Sep. 1876</p> <p>—Katherine Maud Gidley.
—Mary Teresa Gidley.
—Sarah Emily Russell Gidley.
—Elizabeth Caroline Gidley.
—Margaret Frances Mary Gidley.</p> |
|---|--|



THE ARMS OF RICHARD SMITH OF THE PRIORY.

Gu. a bend engrailed ar. betw. 2 Salamanders in flames ppr.
Crest. Upon a mount vert. in front of a rock a chamois both ppr.

THE ARMS OF BENJAMIN SMITH OF TAN-Y-CRAIG.

Az. on a fes. dancette or, betw. 3 decrescents of the last as many mullets of six points of the first.
Crest. On a rock a Tower both ppr., thereon a crescent surmounted by a mullet of six points.

Of the three sons that survived Richard Hudson I., of Wyke House, Henry Hudson I. was the youngest, and his share of the property was the present Upper Wick House and the adjoining estate, the bulk of which, besides the old demesne lands of the manor of Wyke Waryn, ran northwards from the back of the house towards the river Avon at Wyre Piddle, and included the large meadow opposite Wyre Ferry.

We have seen that Upper Wick House was the original manor house of Wyke Waryn. One of the younger Hazlewoods was living in this house in 1708, and in the latter part of that century it was rented by James Payne, Esq. It was not in those days in any way the same sized house as we now see it: in Mr. Payne's time there was only the central three-storeyed portion. The east wing, containing dining-room and withdrawing-room, was built about 1792 by Richard Hudson I. to make a suitable residence for his eldest son Richard to live in on his marriage; but on Richard Hudson II. succeeding, at the death of his father, to Wyke House, he went into residence there, and his brother Henry Hudson I., having at the same time come into Upper Wick House and the surrounding property, came to live there.

It was in 1804 that Henry Hudson I., on the death of his father, inherited Upper Wick House and the adjoining property. He married in 1805, and in that year added to the house the west wing, consisting of kitchens and offices, and also the stables and adjoining buildings; hence the characteristic stable architecture of the beginning of last century.

In the present day we should have allowed hygiene to have had more weight in the building of our stables, and have given the horses a little more of southern sunlight and a little less of the northern aspect; but the year 1805 was before the period of clipping and clothing horses, and so a great part of the year they lay in open paddocks.

I have heard my father, the late George Bengough Hudson, say that he was the first man in the neighbourhood to clip a horse.

He was out with Lord Fitzhardinge's hounds one day—they of the canary-coloured hunting-coats—and found some one riding to the hounds on a clipt horse; so, not to be behindhand, he got the Pershore barber over to Wick, who, with scissors and comb, in three days clipt one of his hunters in proper form. Crowther, of Somer-

ville's-Aston, seeing George Hudson on this clipt horse, thought he would go one better, and so had one of his own horses shaved ; but, on appearing at the covert-side, his mount carried a liberal amount of sticking-plaster.

Stabling was more of a necessity than a luxury in those days, in that no man of any position in the county, no matter how thrifty the family might be in other things, would think of paying a formal call with less than four horses.

On the other hand, they lived their life in their own house, on their own estate, and men and women did not consider it an absolute necessity of existence that they should spend a period every year at the seaside ; they were far too wise for that.

Henry Hudson I. married Mary, the daughter of Thomas Smith, of Tibbington House, co. Stafford, and great-granddaughter of Sir Thomas Turberville, of Tibberton, Worcestershire (see Smith pedigree), with whom he received a goodly fortune. She was not only a very fine, handsome woman, but she was a good and careful manager of her house, and so supplied those elements that are not generally aggressively obtrusive in Hudson men, at least so far as my experience goes.

Now, horses and stables are to Englishmen much the same as wives and harems are to the Eastern races. There are many who do not particularly want either of them. They are more than often a bore, and always an expense ; but, as in the East the latter is considered a necessary appendage to a man in position, so in England the former was looked upon as that which—especially if you lived in the county—could not be done without ; and my most respected grandfather did not think differently.

When the first-born child appeared on the scene, his wise and prudent spouse most properly suggested that as a family would be an increased expense it would be well to put down a horse. To this her husband acceded, and thereafter drove "unicorn."

The second child appearing on the scene, and with it further prudent counsels on the part of the Chatelaine of Upper Wick House, my grandfather, with less easy grace, gave up the more rakish "unicorn" team for the sober and sedater-looking "pair."

Time went on, and a third child was presented by its proud mother ; but, although the suppression of a third horse was diffidently suggested, my grandfather had come to the end of his self-

denying tether, and below a pair of horses he absolutely refused to go.

These anecdotes of one's ancestors raise a smile on the face of their descendants, but all who have cared to ask will know only too well how much we are indebted to the wisdom and the prudence of so good a wife and mother as Mrs. Henry Hudson I.; and those who will take the trouble to think, will realise how many of the troubles of to-day in English home life are caused by the absence in a great number of wives of the very characteristics that we have been jocosely referring to.

These were the days of that very smart turnout the "Curricie," a pair of horses in a two-wheeled vehicle. The suppression of the recent Boer rebellion will have brought to the notice of many the Curricie's present prototype, the Cape cart, with its comfortable hood, only instead of two it has four horses, which are driven by those incomparable whips the Malay boys. It was in a Curricie that Henry Hudson I. used to drive his sons to Oxford, in those pre-railway days, when education necessitated their journey there. Even as late as my young days there was no railway to Oxford, and the only public conveyance was the coach, which ran from Worcester through Pershore and Evesham to Oxford. These Worcester to Oxford coaches ran up to about 1850. That part of Pershore which lies at the back of where the old Post Office used to be up to a few years ago, and which runs back to the National Schools, was called the "Ridings," in consequence of that being the place where the coach and posting-horses were stabled in the palmiest days of coaching. It is still known by the same name. If you go to the stables of the 'Three Tuns' you will see the old passage to the Ridings from the stable-yard of that inn.

Henry Hudson I. was a man of quiet habits but fond of horses. As a father, kind but stern, as was the fashion of the day. The pendulum on this point has, unfortunately, the last half-century swung too far the other way. It is only the other day that I heard a young unmarried girl at a dinner table say, that her mother was wishing to see a new society play, but that she intended seeing it herself first to be satisfied it was not too *risque* for her dear old mater to go to.

Henry Hudson was in the habit of going down to Cheltenham

twice a year for the "season," taking his horses with him and staying at the Queen's hotel.

In 1847, on one of these visits, he was taken ill and died at the Queen's. Mrs. Henry Hudson survived him until 1863. All my generation's remembrance of her is a handsome old lady with fine-cut features, always industrious, even when tied to her sofa, ever doing some kind act; and if she gave you some amount of prudent advice on going away to school or to sea, it was always accompanied by generous pocket money.

She was one of the Smiths of Tibbington, a family that the Hudsons have married into three several times, as in addition to this Mrs. Hudson, the late Mrs. Charles Hudson, of Upper Wick House, and also Mrs. Harry Hudson, of the Abbey, were both of Smith descent on the distaff side, as is shown in the Smith pedigree at the commencement of this chapter.

This family of Smith, and of its descendants on the female side, is of such dimensions that one can hardly form a concrete idea of it. Few of its members have ever sat down with crossed hands, but, on the contrary, they have been up and doing, and with few exceptions have been busy men. Next to the good looks, the vigour and intelligence that have always struck me as the leading characteristics of the family, I think what one calls "success" has been a well marked point running through several generations.

Thomas Smith, of Tibbington House, who died before the last century was eight years old, was High Sheriff of County Stafford. I am not sure how many of his descendants have since held that honourable position, but it is within my knowledge that during the last two decades two of his direct male descendants, George Samuel Fereday Smith, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., J.P., D.L., of Grovehurst, near Tunbridge Wells, High Sheriff, 1884; and Frederick Smith Shenstone, J.P., D.L., of Sutton Hall, near Lewes, High Sheriff, 1888, have been honoured by being pricked High Sheriffs of the counties of Kent and Sussex respectively, not to mention several of the others who sit in the front seats of honour that we erect in this world.

We may have no fear of this Smith family becoming extinct. There are some that I may not have taken count of, but counting those I know, I find that Thomas Smith, of Tibbington, had nine children who grew into 53 grand-children, and their descendants

the great-grand-children number or numbered 91. I dare not pursue this into the next—young people—generation of to-day, but I believe that the ratio of increase has not decreased.

What would not the present Prime Minister of the French dwindling Republic give to have a few such families as this on Gallic soil !

Both Henry Hudson I. and his two brothers, Richard and Thomas, had kept their own estates in hand and farmed them themselves ; the Wick Award and the subsequent enclosure having taken place just about the time they inherited their properties. This enclosure of the lands that were common of pasture made it possible for the owner of an estate to more successfully keep it in hand, and bring into use the system of high farming and the growing of root crops, which about this period were becoming so prevalent. This system could not have been carried on under the old plan of yard-lands, with their one-acre balks and strips of unploughed land between them.



CHAPTER XV.

Hudsons of the 13th Century.



XV.

TURNING to our little village church of Wick, it cannot be said that it has incised its history deep on the tablets of the past. A chapel-of-ease to the rich monastery of Pershore, its importance, outside its helpfulness to those who prayed within its walls, was very little; even the traces of the past that it might have handed down to us on the tomb monuments of its ancient village dead were forbidden, as its mother church of Pershore, jealous of its power and of the plenitude of its coffers, forbade Wick the privilege of burials. It is only in quite recent years, when further burials in the Pershore churchyard were forbidden, that Wick was allowed to bury its dead parishioners in its own God's Acre.

The chapel, when first built, was in the manor of Wyke Waryn, and it would have been—as was the custom—built in close proximity to the manor house, in this case just across the village street.

It continued a chapel-of-ease to Pershore Abbey until the dissolution of that foundation in the XVIth century, at which date the vicar of St. Andrew's became curate of the Abbey Church and was responsible for the cure of souls in the hamlet of Wick-juxta-Pershore.

I am not quite sure, but I believe that the first appointment to Wick as perpetual curate was made by the Rev. John Mogridge, vicar of Pershore, who died in 1796. In the early half of the last century one of the perpetual curates was the Rev. William Henry Mogridge, son of the Rev. John Mogridge as above. Latterly, out of the £90 a year he took for the duty, he paid the Rev. Mr. Parker £40 of it to do the work, it being the days of pluralities, he himself living at Balham Hill, near London, and doing duty as curate of Streatham.

In 1889, the living was made a vicariate, the presentation being left in the hands of the vicar of St. Andrew's, Pershore, and about this time the vicarage house was built. To stand in the village street between Upper Wick House and the church

and look around, one must be very wanting in an eye for village church precincts or village greens, if one cannot at once grasp what the position was in pre-dissolution and pre-enclosure-acts days.

Upper Wick House would be the old manor house of Wyke Waryn; the village road would bulge out here, and in front of the manor house there would be the village green, in the centre of which would be the Calvary. On the other side of the village green would be the old west entrance to the church under the tower; the ground of the village green would rise to the eastward, and there would be the village pond. However, "nous avons changè tout cela," and the Calvary is now in a private pasture-field, a rubbing-place for sheep.

The not having the privilege of burials accounts for the absence of ancient stained windows or monuments; were this not the reason, the absence of same would be remarkable in a village that has for so many centuries had gentlemen of position residential owners of the land; although, in 1640, Habington tells us:—"On that part of the Rood loft that remaineth are the arms of the Earl of Ormonde unskilfully painted, which are also to be found in Pershore church, and he was a great benefactor to the church."

When I was a boy there was also some coloured decorative work on the north wall of the chancel. However, whatever was left of the Rood-loft when Habington paid it a visit, very soon went the way that all Rood-lofts went about that period—that enlightened period of our history of England.

Wick church is dedicated to St. Bartholomew, and has a chancel, a nave that has been added to, and a western belfry with now one bell in it. At an earlier period there was a tower containing several bells, but it has always been understood that they were sold in the XVIIIth century to raise funds to repair the church. One of them I know got domiciled in a belfry on top of Glenmore Lodge; it was a beautifully toned one, and, when I was a lad, was rung four times a day and could be heard for a couple of miles around. There was originally, as we have already seen, a western entrance to the church under the tower.

Of work on the church during the last century: in 1861, it was put in good repair and a north aisle and vestry added. In 1893, the chancel and the south wall were rebuilt, the remainder

of the old-fashioned comfortable high pews taken away, an organ-chamber built, an organ erected, and a new oak chancel-screen put up.

There are several modern stained-glass windows, the east one having been erected in 1893, by Mr. Alfred Ricketts Hudson, of Wyke House, to the memory of his parents, the late Henry Hudson I. and Mary his wife; other windows were given by Mrs. Evans, of Bryn Issa.

The reredos and altar-table of carved oak were given by the Rev. C. H. Bickerton Hudson, of Upper Wick House, in memory of his parents, the late Charles Smith Hudson and Sarah Ellen, his wife.

The lych-gate was erected during the last year of the century just passed.

In comparison with big towns, there never have been really indigent poor in Wick, they have always been well looked after, at least as far as goes the memory of the oldest villager; but, nevertheless, the church could well do with some more charities, as I understand that at present there is only one, standing in its solitary grandeur.

The late Mr. Hugh Robinson, who came to Wick to seek a bride in the person of Miss Louisa Hudson, was always much taken up with the villagers, and by his will he left the interest on £200 to be given away every Christmas to the cottagers of Wick: 2s. 6d. to heads of all families, and 5s. to every widower or widow, and to be called the "Hugh Robinson Gift." This distribution commenced in 1888.

As far as I have seen there is nothing in the church to show this legacy, which calls to my mind the notification of a legacy which stands in large letters at the entrance to Lambeth parish church. The notice states that Mr. So-and-so left the interest on £1,000 to the poor of Lambeth, to be yearly distributed by the incumbent, and that by the provisos of the will, this was to be painted on a tablet to be erected and always remain in a prominent position at the main entrance of the church, with full particulars of the bequest in legible letters; that if this tablet was at any time not so kept up in proper order, the legacy would forthwith pass into the possession of a neighbouring incumbent who would hold under similar terms. One cannot but admire

the caution, with its appreciative knowledge of human nature, as contained in the provisos of this bequest.

On the death of Richard Hudson II. in 1850, Wyke House and the whole of his estates became the property of his only son, Richard Hudson III., who also became lord of the manors of Wike Burnell and of Wyke Waryn. But his reign at Wyke House was not of long duration ; he walked little in the ways of his most respected father, and still less in those of his wise and intelligent paternal grandfather. When Pleasure is the figure-head, and Folly handles the tiller of an ancient patrimony, it does not require a very lengthy period to witness how the land melts away from one's own control, so before the tablet had been erected in Pershore Abbey Church to the memory of his father for a couple of years the son had to sell the estate.

Wyke House with the family paintings, the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, with the rest of his estate, then went by purchase to his cousin, Alfred Ricketts Hudson, now of Wyke House.

Some few years before his father's death Richard Hudson III. married Utinia de Nolcken, only daughter of Baron Gustavus de Nolcken, who with the Baroness were great friends of Mrs. Lydia Murray, daughter of John Mogridge, vicar of Pershore.

This Baron Gustavus de Nolcken was son of Baron Gustavus Adam de Nolcken, who was sometime Ambassador from Sweden to the Court of St. James. The family of Nolcken still hold high rank and position in northern Europe. I give hereafter the pedigree of the family, shewing the descent of Mrs. Richard Hudson III., and also of the further descendants of her grandfather, the first Baron Nolcken.

PEDIGREE OF DE NOLCKEN OF LIVONIA,

SHEWING THE DESCENT OF

MRS. RICHARD HUDSON III.

John, Arnds, Heinrick, Erick, and Ghest de Nolcken, brothers,
lived 1456.

|
Dionysius, a son of one of the above, of Uckli, in Westphalia, lived
1498, and mar. Augusta von Stiemmestrorn, and had issue a
son—

Henry de Nolcken of Uckli, who married Arma von Urnnighousen,
living (temp.) 1554, whose son was—

Henry de Nolcken, settled 1596 in Livonia, and fought at the battle
of Kirchholm, and died 1617. He mar. Anna von Blowen, and
by her had issue—

Weimar de Nolcken of Nolckenhoff and Mullatt. He mar. Margaretha
von Loge, and had issue—

Frederick de Nolcken of Flosick, Nolckenhoff, and Mullatt, on the
Isle of Cēsil, in Livonia, nat. 1624. He mar. Anna von Victirg-
hoff, and was succeeded by his son—

Christoph Reinhold de Nolcken of Massick, Colonel. Nat. 1660 ;
ob. 1732. He mar. Ingeborg von Stackelberg, and had a son—

Eric Matthias de Nolcken, created 1st Baron de Nolcken. Nat. 1694,
in Riga ; ob. 1755 at Stockholm. He was Swedish Ambassador
in Russia and Chancellor. He mar. Margaretha von Lode, by
whom he had issue as follows :—

(1.) Arved Reinhold de Nolcken, for whom see further.

(2.) Gustavus Adam de Nolcken (Baron by birth). Nat. 1733
in Strelsand ; ob. 1813. He was Ambassador to St. James'.
He mar. 1st (1779) Mary, dau. of James Roche, of Fermoy,
and his wife, Mary Brown ; 2nd, he mar. the widow of
Stephen Cæsar Lemaitre, and by her had a son—

(a.) Gustavus de Nolcken (Baron), who mar. Susan Jones,
and by her had an only daughter, Utinia de Nolcken,
who married Richard Hudson III. of Wyke House,
Persnore (see Hudson Pedigree).

(3.) John Frederick de Nolcken (Baron by birth). Nat. 1737 ;
o.s.p. 1809. He was Knight of St. John of Jerusalem,
Ambassador in St. Petersburg and in Vienna. He mar.
Margaret, Countess of Moan Teuffel.

N

Arved Reinhold de Nolcken, as above (II. Baron Nolcken). Nat. 1732 ; ob. 1794. First Equerry. Mar. Sophia von Kurck, of Fordberga and Vlanarthog, in Sweden, dau. of Axel, Baron Kurck, whose great-grandmother was the Princess Elizabeth of Brunswick Limdrig, and by her had issue—

- (1.) Eric Reinhold de Nolcken, of whom further ;
- (2.) Axel Gustavus de Nolcken, of whom also see further ;
- (3.) Arved de Nolcken. Nat. 1771 ; ob. 1807 s.p. Was Governor of Carlstadt.

Eric Reinhold de Nolcken, as above (III. Baron Nolcken). Nat. 1736 ; ob. 1834. Governor of Christvonstadt. He mar. Magdalena, dau. of Frederick, Count Stismeufeld, and had issue—

- (1.) Eric de Nolcken, of whom further ;
- (2.) Charles Adam de Nolcken, of Fordberga. Nat. 1811 ; ob. 1857. He mar. Dorothy, dau. of Count Gustavus Ehrensward, and had issue—
 - (a.) Eric Gustavus. Nat. 1852 ; ob. 1873 s.p.
 - (b.) Clara Amelia de Nolcken. Nat. 1851. Mar. M. de Sliernswärd.

Eric de Nolcken, as above (IV. Baron de Nolcken). Nat. 1809 ; ob. 1876, as the last Nolcken in Sweden, and without issue, being succeeded by his cousin, Ernest Frederick de Nolcken, whose descent is as follows :—

Axel Gustavus de Nolcken (Baron by birth), as above. Nat. 1767, and was Chamberlain of the Swedish Court and settled in Livonia. He mar. Mary, dau. of John Theophile, Count of München, of Linnia and Moitekatg, having left issue two sons, one of whom—

- (a.) George Frederick de Nolcken, of Linnia, nat. 1789, ob. 1854, who, by Catherina, dau. of Ernest, Count of München, had three sons, the eldest of whom—

Ernest Frederick de Nolcken, of Linnia, became V. Baron Nolcken on the death of his cousin in 1876. He mar. Sophia, dau. of Reinhold, Count of Stackelburg, of Allelzkum, by whom he has issue, amongst others—

- (1.) Arved George de Nolcken, nat. 1845, who mar. Josephine von Loewentern, of Loewenhof, and has four children :—
 - (a.) Vlennar, ob. cælebs 1878 ;
 - (b.) Vlenry, nat. 1876 ;
 - (c.) Ghert, nat. 1880 ; and Elonora.

Note.—Transcribed from copy supplied by Ernest Frederick, the 5th Baron, in 1897.

Richard Hudson III., after leaving Wick, resided for a short time thereafter in Cheltenham ; but he was not in very strong health, and died in London in the year 1854.

With the death of Richard Hudson III. the Hudsons of Wick were represented by the children of Henry Hudson, the third surviving son of Richard Hudson I. Of these the eldest was Henry Hudson II., who, being born September, 1806, and dying December, 1897, had entered his ninety-second year at the time of his death, and, with the exception of a partial loss of sight from cataract, was then active and in full possession of all his faculties. From an early age he had been on the Commission of the Peace for the county of Worcester, and a kinder-hearted and more respected Justice never sat on the county bench. In the year 1832 he married Anna Selfe Page, when his father, following the plan of what had been done on his own marriage, rebuilt Vandyke Court for his son to live in. Vandyke Court was in a central position of that portion of the estate which was rented to Henry Hudson II. to farm by his father, and when the old gentleman died Henry Hudson II. inherited it as his one-fourth share of his father's estate. Farming was good in those days. It was before the agricultural districts had begun to suffer, and the old-fashioned cultivator of his own lands had been gradually annihilated by the Manchester-begotten, so-called system of free trade ; and Henry Hudson, being specially successful in his farming, decided—in what I am sure he would have been the first to admit an unwise moment—to build him a mansion on the upper part of his estate, looking towards Bredon Hill, on a site very similar to that on which Avon Bank had been built by his uncle Thomas.

Before the last century the higher sites were considered foolish places to build mansions on, and the more peaceful shelter of the valleys was generally chosen as a site ; but with the incoming of the XIXth century the truth began to dawn that human life was, for length and strength, more suitably environed when placed on an eminence, for, exclusive of the Polar regions, those parts of the earth that are most suitable for vegetable life are least adapted for the higher animals ; whilst, *au contraire*, the situations where animal life thrives the most vigorously vegetation can only carry out a stunted growth : here was an added incentive to the wish to build on the higher lands of Wick.

Start from Pershore bridge, and go along the Evesham road up

Wick Hill : the first three houses you pass on the right are houses built upon Hudson property. The first two, Avon Bank and The Elms—called, since it was sold by Henry Hudson, “Bryn Issa”—were built by Hudsons ; the third is built upon the part of the estate called “Endon,” that was left by Richard Hudson II. to his daughter Laura for life, and then to her brother Richard.

When Thomas Hudson came into his share of the estate at the death of his father, the southern portion of Wick park, called the Upper Park, fell to his share, and on it he built Avon Bank. Some few years later, for reasons I have already given, he sold it to General Thomas Marriott.

Henry Hudson II., close on the decease of his father, built The Elms in about 1850, and some twenty years later sold it, with its pleasaunce, out of the family.

From a Hudson-of-Wick point of view both these occurrences are regrettable, and the houses stand as object-lessons to future generations of Hudsons, should they have inclinations to indulge in building mansions.

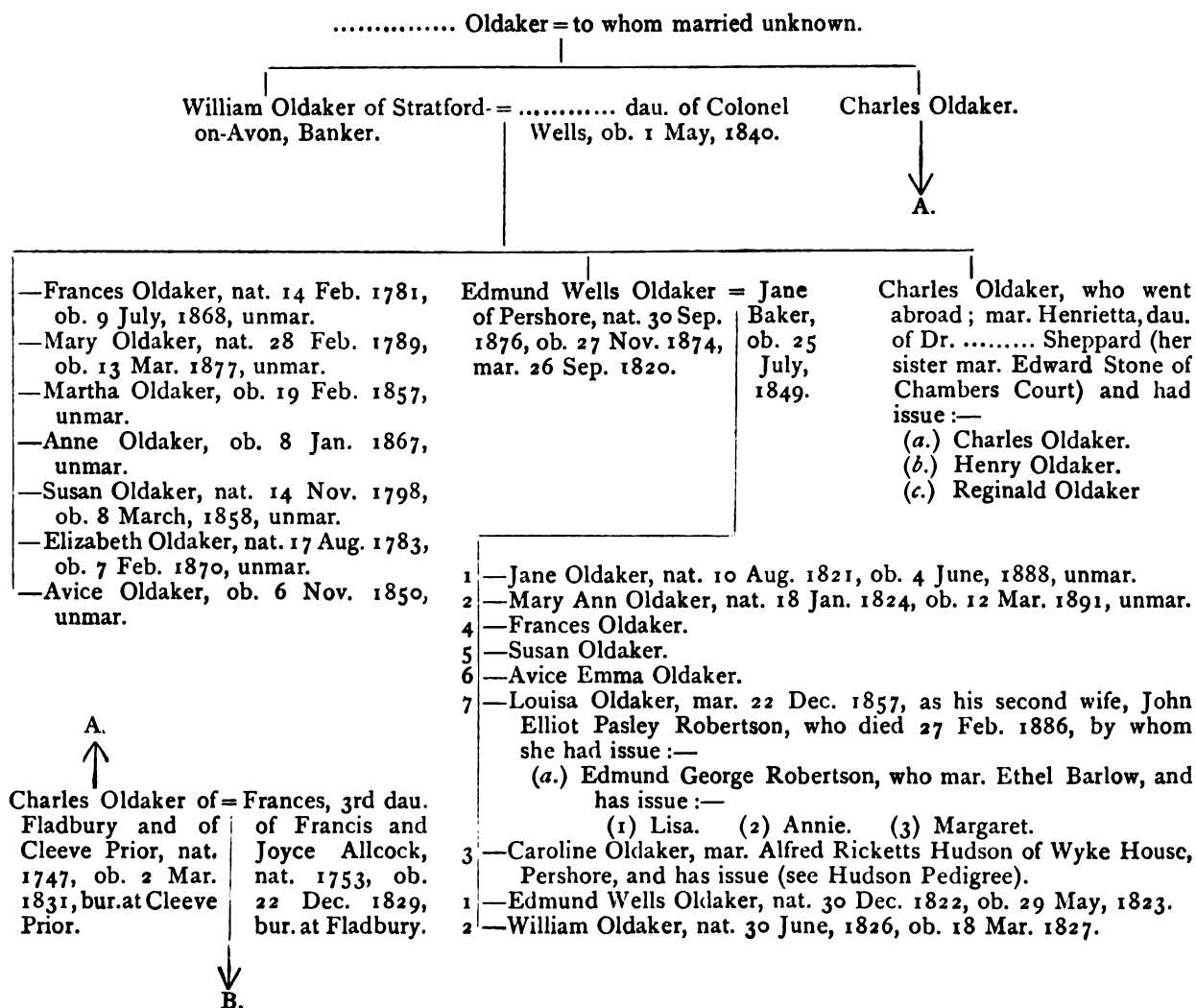
Perhaps there is something in the Wick air, as, towards the end of the century before last, a Mr. Bell, who was tenant at Wick under the Hazlewoods, and later under the Hudsons, built the castellated building on Bredon Hill just above Kemerton, which he called Bell's Castle, but it has ever since been known by the name of “Bell's Folly.”

Henry Hudson II. had two sons, Edmund Henry Selfe, who married Edith Malins, niece of Vice-Chancellor Sir Richard Malins (the last of the Vice-Chancellors), and Frederick Charles, sometime captain in H.M. 109th Foot, who was at the taking of the Taku Forts and at the sacking of the city of Peking by the Allied Forces in 1860, and died in 1881.

PEDIGREE OF OLDAKER OF WORCESTERSHIRE,

SHewing THE DESCENT OF

MRS. GEORGE BENGOUGH HUDSON, AND
MRS. ALFRED RICKETTS HUDSON.



↑

- ↓
C.

- Jane Oldaker, ob. 5 Dec. 1886, mar. Thomas Warrington, an Artist, and had issue a dau. Jane, who mar. Archibald Hudson of Avon Bank (see Hudson and also Mogridge Pedigrees).

↓

- Francis Allcock = Amey Allies of Pershore, ob. 24 Dec. 1865; she mar. 2nd, Dr. Francis Davies of Pershore, by whom she had further issue, Bridget Davies, who mar. Clendon Turberville Daukes (see Smith Pedigree).

- Thomas Allies Oldaker = Letitia Pulley.

- Joseph Oldaker.
- George Oldaker.
- Horace Charles
Oldaker, mar.
1899, Chester
Hughes of Streat-
ham.
- Arthur Oldaker.

The youngest surviving son of Henry Hudson I. was Alfred Ricketts Hudson, who some few years after the death of his father bought Wyke House and grounds, the estate and the lordships of the manors of Wike Burnell and of Wyke Waryn, from his cousin, Richard Hudson III. He married Caroline Elizabeth, one of the daughters of Edmund Wells Oldaker, of Pershore. The Oldakers are eminently a Worcestershire family, and I have given their pedigree.

Since his residence at Wyke House he has continuously and with great judgment been improving the property. He did away with the fold-yards and farm buildings east of Wyke House that were against the Timber Lane, north of the manorial Pigeon-house. He enlarged the Hall to what we see it now, and built the conservatory for the extension of the withdrawing-room. He erected the present lodge at the park gate, and planted the clumps of dark-foliaged trees that lie in a N.E. direction from the lodge gate.

Coming from Pershore to Wick along the Waylands, when you come into the second field, the first plantation on your right is the "Jubilee" plantation, planted to commemorate that event in the life of our revered Queen Victoria, Mr. Alfred Hudson, his wife, his son, daughter, and grandchildren each planting a tree. The next and younger plantation, on the right, is called the "Diamond Jubilee" plantation, and the trees were planted by some of the younger grandchildren, who were not old enough to hold a tree to plant it when the "Jubilee" plantation was set out. I should also mention that the large Wayland Orchard was planted by Mr. Alfred Hudson in the year that his first-born son and heir, the present Colonel A. H. Hudson, of The Abbey, Pershore, saw the light of day.

My pen is not experienced sufficiently to dare to write about the living, but I would like to place on record the opinion that a deep debt of gratitude is due from most Hudsons and their descendants to Mr. Alfred Ricketts Hudson, of Wyke House, for keeping the old family house and property together.

I speak with experience in saying that to the man whose duties take him far afield, and to places where he has to depend on his own personal individuality, to keep up a position and get the entrée to many places he wants; the being able to earmark a known county house as belonging to your people, is an advantage that deserves thanks to the Head of the family who enables you to do so.

Without saying more, I will go backwards and say that this, the first year of the XXth century, with Alfred Ricketts Hudson, Esquire, at Wyke House, lord of the manors of Wike Burnell and Wyke Waryn, marks about a century and a half that the estate has been in the Hudson family, and there does not seem much risk at present of male heirs failing. Previous to the Hudsons the Hazlewood family had held Wyke House and both manors for a period of nearly 200 years, which takes us back to Queen Katherine Parr, to the attainted Anthony Babington, and to Sir Walter Raleigh, all of whom respectively owned Wyke House and were lords of the manor of Wike Burnell. Before this the house and manor were owned for 150 years by the Lords Latimer, who had come into it by marriage with a Beauchamp woman, it having been in that family for nearly 100 years, a similar period of time before that having been with the Burnells, who originally had created the manor.

The third son of Henry Hudson I. was Charles Smith Hudson, of Upper Wick House. He continued on there in residence after the death of his father, who had left him this house and the adjoining estate, so that he was able to carry out the wish that once he had expressed to me, which was to die in the same bed and bedroom that he had been born in, which he did at a ripe and revered old age.

He married his cousin, Sarah Ellen, the daughter of Henry Bickerton Whitehouse, for whose descent see Smith pedigree. That a kinder-hearted man never existed would be the unanimous opinion of any one that was asked who had known him well. His labourers never knew what it was to be sent home because it was a wet day; and if he had used the labour of a workman throughout the best part of his days, he always found the man work of some kind in his old age. When horse-rakes came in, and were used in the cornfields, I well remember him insisting that he would never use one for that purpose, as he considered that "leasing" (or "gleaning," as it is known in most parts of England) in the cornfields was a privilege of the poor, which he had no right to rob them of. On the lighter side of life he was fond of horticulture, and his opinion was always much in request as a connoisseur of wines.

On the death of Charles Smith Hudson in 1891, Upper Wick House and the estate passed to his elder son, the Rev. Charles Henry Bickerton Hudson, now vicar of St. Barnabas', Oxford.

CHAPTER XVI.

George Bengough Hudson Branch.



XVI.

THE second surviving son of Henry Hudson I., of Upper Wick House, was George Bengough Hudson, so named after his father's cousin, George Bengough, of Bristol, whose father was George Bengough, of Tewkesbury, which family had for some generations lived in the neighbourhood of Strensham and Upton-on-Severn. The eldest son and heir of this George Bengough of Bristol was George Bengough, of Wootton-under-Edge, co. Gloucester, who died in 1856, and was succeeded there by his son, George Henry Bengough; but, he dying, the house and estates fell to his brother, John Charles Bengough, J.P., D.L., presently of Wootton-under-Edge, and High Sheriff co. Gloucester, 1877.

It is, of course, the Bengough arms, before they were differenced on Confirmation, that are the 2nd and 3rd quarters of the arms of Hudson of Wick.

George Bengough Hudson married, for his first wife, Frances Mary, daughter of Charles Oldaker, of Pershore (see Oldaker pedigree), and his wife Anne, second daughter of the Rev. John Mogridge, vicar of Pershore. He married, for his second wife, Sarah Maria Amelia, widow of George Cole, of Wellesford House, and daughter of Mark Henry Mogridge, of Sidmouth, the two wives being second cousins to one another in their Mogridge descent.

Some few years since, being at the Heralds' Office making searches, by the kind courtesy of Dr. Marshall ("Rouge Croix"), I remember him saying to me that in order to keep up continuous family records it was sufficient if some one of the family took the trouble to do so every hundred years.

As the Rev. Anthony Mogridge, rector of Martley, who died 1709, left very full records up to his time; as also his grandson, the Rev. John Mogridge, vicar of Pershore, continued them on to the year 1795, he being of antiquarian tastes; and as also his great-grandson, the writer, has brought the records up to date, the pedigree of the Mogridges is fairly intact, and as it will be of interest to some Hudsons I publish it now for the first time.

PEDIGREE OF MOGRIDGE,

SHEWING THE DESCENT OF

FRANCES MARY, THE 1ST WIFE, AND SARAH MARIA AMELIA,
THE 2ND WIFE, OF GEORGE BENGOUGH HUDSON.

- I. John Mogridge, of an ancient family in Normandy, but settled for some centuries in or near Exeter, co. Devon, temp. Ed. IV. (1461), where they had considerable possessions. His son was—
- II. Roger Mogridge. His son was—
- III. John Mogridge of Exeter and Yealimptomin, whose possession is Longer Court and Mogridge's Farm (family estate still held by the family), in the parish of Wednesbury, near Plymouth. He married Mary, dau. of William Speke of Kingsbridge, co. Devon, son of Sir George Speke, co. of Devon, and by her he had issue—
 - (1.) John Mogridge, nat. 1560, of whom further ;
 - (2.) Thomas Mogridge of Exeter, who died there 1617, and his will was proved in London. He married Dorothy, dau. of who survived him, and by whom he had issue—
 - (a.) John Mogridge of Molland Bottreux, in North Devon, ob. . . . æt. 88, having mar. a near relation of Viscount Courtenay, by whom he had issue a son—
 - (a¹.) Phillip Mogridge, whose issue was—
 - (a².) James Mogridge, who mar. Grace, niece of Sir Robert Palk, Bart., an old Devon family. She presented him with 3 children, Mary, James, and Walter Palk.
 - (b².) John Mogridge, rector of Holme, co. Devon, who mar. Margaret, dau. of John Froude of Mogbury, Devon, and by her had issue 2 sons, Francis and John.
- IV. John Mogridge (as above) of Exeter, nat. 1560. Mar. Phillippa, dau. of Sir Richard Regnell of Ford Abbey, co. Devon, who was knighted by Chas. I., and by her he had issue 3 children—
 - (1.) John Mogridge of Madeley, of whom further ;
 - (2.) Edward Mogridge, who is styled in an ancient family

deed (1639) as of St. Giles in the Fields, in the city of London, and whose descendants went to America ;

(3.) Mary Mogridge, who mar. Anthony Ellesden, of Lyme Regis, co. Dorset, lord of the manor of Chermouth.

V. John Mogridge (as above) of Madeley, co. of Hereford, ob. 1642, author of many religious works. He mar. Ellinor, dau. of Joseph Carwardine, of Madeley, co. Hereford, an old Herefordshire family, she dying in 1677, having had issue by him—

(1.) Anthony Mogridge, of whom further ;

(2.) Robert Mogridge, o.s.p. 26 May, 1696 ;

(3.) John Mogridge, ob. cælebs 1675 ;

(4.) Anne Mogridge, who mar. — Jones, of Abergavenny.

VI. Anthony Mogridge (as above), rector of Martley and vicar of Kenswick (instituted 7 April, 1675), ob. 1709. He was also an author of some repute. He married Sybilla, dau. of James Phillpotts by Margaret his wife, and by her he had issue—

(1.) Samuel Mogridge, sometime curate of Bredon's Norton, co. Worcester, nat. 27 May, 1677, ob. 30 Aug., 1706 ;

(2.) Anthony Mogridge, of Himbledon, of whom further.

(1.) Sybilla Mogridge, who mar. Richard Parker, of Herefordshire. (2.) Abiah Mogridge. (3.) Theodosea Mogridge.

(4.) Susannah Mogridge. (5.) Elinor Mogridge. (6.) Anne Mogridge. (7.) Margaret Mogridge.

VII. Anthony Mogridge (as above), vicar of Himbledon, co. Worcester. Nat. 1687 ; ob. 8 Feb., 1766. Mar. Mary, only dau. and heiress of Francis Kings, of Naunton Court, Kempsey, by Anne, dau. of Thomas Anthony Bloxham, lord of the manor of Aston Subege and of Mickleton, co. Gloucester. She was born 21 July, 1718 ; mar. 24 Aug., 1738 ; ob. 10 July, 1795. Buried in Severn Stoke Church, and by her he had issue—

(1.) John Mogridge, sometime vicar of Avenbury, then vicar of Pershore. Nat. 19 April, 1747 ; ob. 2 March, 1796, at Oxford ; bur. in the Mogridge vault in Pershore Abbey Church (this vault is nearly in the centre of the floor of the south transept). Mar. Mary, dau. of John Southam of Worcester, 15 Sept., 1771, at St. Swithun's, Worcester, and had issue—

(a.) John Sandford Mogridge, nat. 1780 o.s.p. ;

(b.) James Edward Mogridge, Lieut. 34th Foot. Nat.

22 March, 1791; ob. 26 Dec., 1867; bur. in Pershore Abbey churchyard, just east of the Lady Chapel, having married but left no issue. (For further particulars see later in chapter.)

- (c.) William Henry Mogridge, perpetual curate of Wick and Bricklehampton, and curate of Balham Hill, S.E. Nat. 28 July, 1795; ob. . . . at Brighton. Mar. Miss Jones of Strensham, near Pershore, who survived him.
 - (a.) Harriott Mogridge, nat. 1777, o.s.p. 1860 at Deptford Strond, Kent;
 - (b.) Anne Mogridge, nat. 19 April, 1779; ob. 1857 at Cheltenham, and buried there. Mar., first, Charles Oldaker of Pershore, nat. 15 May, 1774, ob. 6 May, 1812 (see Oldaker pedigree); second, George Port of Doverdale, rector of Grafton Flyford, co. Worcester, and private chaplain to the Earl of Ellenborough, nat. 1800, ob. 1883, s.p. by her;
 - (c.) Maria Mogridge, nat. 1772, o.s.p. 5 April, 1780;
 - (d.) Maria Mogridge, nat. 1785, o.s.p.;
 - (e.) Lydia Mogridge, nat. 24 April, 1787; ob. 1869. Mar., first, William Marriott of the Hon. E.I.C. Service, 5 March, 1804, at Pershore, ob. in India 1805, s.p. (He was grandson of the Rev. Randolph Marriott by his wife the Lady Diana, dau. of fifth Earl of Denbigh); second, Robert Wyndham Lathorp Murray, Capt. 1st Regt. Royals, A.D.C. to H.R.H. the Duke of Kent. (For further descent see later in chapter);
 - (f.) Clarinda Mogridge, nat. 29 April, 1788, o.s.p.
- (2.) Matthias Mogridge, of whom hereafter.
- (3.) Andrew Ballen Mogridge, nat. 1 Nov., 1751.
- (4.) Charles Thomas Mogridge, nat. 16 Sept., 1755. Mar. Mary Bennet, niece of the fourth Earl of Tankerville (the fifth Earl wanted to marry her when Lord Osulston, but she said, No!) In 1827 he emigrated to America with his family (all except Eliza), as see below. The issue of this marriage was—
- (a.) Charles Mogridge;
 - (b.) Matthias Mogridge, who was over in England on a

visit in 1850, and called on his nephew, Joseph Thomas Holt Dun ;

- (a.) Mary Mogridge, mar. Mr. Cooper ;
- (b.) Louisa Mogridge ;
- (c.) Sarah Eliza Mogridge, nat. 1800. Mar. 22 June, 1827, Joseph Dun of Gray's Inn, Barrister-at-law, formerly in the Royal Horse Artillery, nat. 1800, ob. 1844, and had issue a son, Joseph Thomas Holt Dun. Sarah Eliza Mogridge wanted to marry young Dun, then in the Royal Artillery, but her father insisted on her sailing with him, and locked her down in the ship's cabin. She, however, got out of the stern port as the ship lay in the Thames, eloped with her lover and married him at Shore-ditch church.

- (5.) Samuel Rénatus Mogridge, nat. 30 Aug., 1757, o.s.p.
- (6.) Henry Mogridge, nat. 21 Jan., 1760, o.s.p.
- (1.) Mary Mogridge, nat. 12 June, 1739.
- (2.) Nancy Mogridge, nat. 29 May, 1743.
- (3.) Dorothy Mogridge, nat. 21 Aug., 1745.
- (4.) Eliza Mogridge, nat. 11 July, 1753.
- (5.) Sarah Mogridge, nat. 21 Jan., 1760.

VIII. Matthias Mogridge (as above) of Sidmouth. Nat. 23 Feb., 1749 ; ob. 14 Aug., 1816, at Sidmouth. Mar. Mary Phillips, a widow, nat. 1757, ob. 28 Jan., 1842, at Sidmouth, and by her had issue—

- (1.) Mark Henry Mogridge, of whom hereafter ;
- (2.) George Mogridge, nat. 17 Feb., 1787, at Ashstead, Birmingham ; ob. 2 Nov., 1854, at Hastings, where he had lived many years and was buried there. He was a writer of some note under the pseudonym of "Peter Parley" (see further in chapter). He mar., first, Elizabeth Bloomer, and by her had issue—

(a.) George Mogridge, mar. and had two sons, Henry and James, and one dau., Lucy ;

(b.) Matthias Mogridge.

(a.) Eliza Mogridge, o.s.p. 1840.

He mar., second, Mary Ridsdale, and by her had issue—

(a.) Edward Charles Mogridge, ob. at Iselina, in Bay of

Naples, 1874. Married Mary Anne Corden, ob. 1864, and had issue by her—

(*a*¹.) Alban Humphrey Mogridge, who went to Canada. Mar. Florence Arnold, and has one child living (1900), Edward Richard ;

(*b*¹.) Ridsdale Mogridge, a commander in the Merchant Service.

(*a*¹.) Florence Marie Desirie Mogridge, mar. George Henry Watkins of Litchfield.

(*b*¹.) Marianne Mogridge, mar. John Wallis Davis of London, barrister-at-law, and has (1900) two daughters.

(3.) James Mogridge, bapt. 17 Dec., 1799, in Birmingham, o.s.p.

(1.) Mary Mogridge, bapt. 28 July, 1791, in Birmingham. Mar., as his second wife, Phillip Mellor Twells of Handsworth, Birmingham, and had issue by him—

(*a*.) William Twells of Handsworth, o.s.p. ;

(*b*.) Henry Twells, nat. 1822, ob. 1899, canon of Peterborough ;

(*c*.) Edward Twells, bishop of Protestant church in S. Africa, o.s.p. 1898 ;

(*a*.) Mary Twells, ob. cæl. ;

(*b*.) Susanna Twells, ob. cæl. ;

(*c*.) Isabella Twells.

X. Mark Henry Mogridge of Sidmouth (as above), clerk in holy orders. Nat. 1785 ; ob. 29 Nov., 1845. Mar. Sarah Maria, dau. and heiress of Capt. Benjamin Hands. She died 4 March, 1821, leaving issue as follows—

(1.) Henry Fullelove Mogridge, of whom further ;

(2.) Theodore Hands Mogridge of Arcot House, Sidmouth, ob. May, 1858, sans issue. Mar. Amelia, dau. of General Rumley of Arcot House, Sidmouth, nat. 1807 ; ob. 16 Dec., 1885.

(1.) Sarah Maria Amelia Mogridge. Mar., 1st (1842), George Cole of Wellesford House, co. Somerset, o.s.p. 25 April, 1853 ; 2nd, as his second wife, George Bengough Hudson of Wick, co. Worcester. (See Hudson Pedigree.)

X. Henry Fullelove Mogridge (as above), J.P., vicar of Old Radnor. Nat. 20 March, 1808, at Birmingham ; ob. 5 Dec., 1873. Mar.

Sarah, dau. of Joseph Griffin of Ashstead, Birmingham, 16 June, 1842. Nat. 21 May, 1809; ob. 10 Nov., 1857, leaving issue—

- (1.) Henry Twells Mogridge, of whom further;
- (2.) Theodore Cole Mogridge, drowned in a Severn bore, 1873;
- (3.) Edward Mogridge, clerk in holy orders, of Gloucester. Nat. 6 Sept., 1849. Mar. Frances Hammeline Asgil Abel, and has issue—

- (a.) Edward Leslie Twells Mogridge, nat. 2 Aug., 1881;
- (b.) Henry Fullelove Mogridge, ob. cælebs;
- (c.) Theodore Fullelove Mogridge, nat. 17 Oct., 1886;
- (d.) Edward Cole Mogridge, nat. 1894;
- (a.) Frances Asgil Dorothy Mogridge.

- (1.) Maria Amelia Mogridge, o.s.p., 26 April, 1894, at Scalford.

XI. Henry Twells Mogridge (as above), sometime rector of Knill, co. Hereford, now rector of Scalford, Melton Mowbray. Nat. 7 June, 1843. Mar. Fanny Collard, 17 April, 1888, at Bromley, Kent, and has issue—

- (1.) Henry Theodore Mogridge, nat. 29 Oct., 1891;
- (2.) Edward Courtenay Mogridge, nat. 1 June, 1893;
- (3.) Basil Fullelove West Mogridge, nat. 10 Sept., 1896;
- (4.) Philip James David Mogridge, nat. 1 May, 1898;
- (1.) Phyllis Ellen Twells Mogridge;
- (2.) Isabel Eva Mogridge.

ARMS OF MOGRIDGE.

Quarterly: 1st and 4th, Party per pale or and az. 3 Eaglets displayed counterchanged; 2nd and 3rd, Ar. on a fes. Sa. betw. 3 Fleur-de-luces az. 3 mullets or. On a chief eng. sa. 3 lions of the fourth.

Crest: An Eagle displayed ppr.

The Mogridges are a Devonshire family; but the later generations of its elder branch—chiefly clergymen—lived in the Midland Counties. The correct pronunciation of the name is soft, as if it were spelt “Moeridge.”

The late Earl of Devon (the XIth) used to say that there was no family in Devon that the Courtenays had inter-married with oftener than the Mogridges, and that there existed in the County no family of older County standing. The reason of

the numerous Courtenay-Mogridge marriages was, that one of the oldest of the Courtenay family houses was at Mollond-Bottreux, a village in North Devon, on the southern slope of the Exmoors, and one branch of the Mogridge family has lived in that village from time immemorial, is still living there on the same although somewhat lessened property, but in a position not quite as they "used-to-was," although, perhaps, not more so than the majority of old families who are, and ever have been, of the land, and still prefer its quietude and its traditions to other more exciting and lucrative walks of life, or to commerce.

Of the family of Mogridge the first marriage that we have fully recorded is that of John Mogridge, of Yealimptomin, who married Mary, the daughter of William Speke of Kingsbridge; a younger son of Sir George Speke, and grandson of Sir Thomas Speke, both of White Lackington, co. Somerset, which was the chief family seat. Sir Thomas Speke of White Lackington had married Anne Berkeley, the grand-daughter of Thomas Berkeley of Dursley (temp. 1484), who was the son of James, 6th Lord Berkeley, by his wife, Isabel Mowbray, the daughter of Thomas Mowbray, Duke of Norfolk, and therefore great-granddaughter of John, Lord Segrave, by his wife Margaret Plantagenet, Duchess of Norfolk, daughter of Edward I., and his second wife Margaret, daughter of Phillip II., of France; the Spekes, therefore, being in true blood descent with the Royal families both of England and of France. But Sir George Speke had married Elizabeth Luttrell, the daughter of Sir Andrew Luttrell of Dunster Castle, and he being the fifth Luttrell in descent from Sir Andrew Luttrell of Chilton, who married Elizabeth Courtenay, daughter of Hugh Courtenay, second Earl of Devon; she bringing into the family the ancient castle of Dunster; so William Speke of Kingsbridge was, through Elizabeth Courtenay, in direct descent with Edward I., in that Hugh Courtenay, second Earl of Devon, was the son of Elizabeth Plantagenet by her husband, the Earl of Essex, and she was the daughter of Edward I. of England, by his first wife, Eleanor of Castille, who of course was of the Royal blood of Spain*.

Dunster Castle, one of the most ancient and unchanged castles

* This descent is sketched out fuller at the end of Chapter XVII.

in Devon, lies on the North Devon Coast, not far from Minehead, and only a ride over the hills from Mollond-Bottreux. It is still held by the same family of Luttrell. White Lackington passed out of that family through the distaff side, as the heiress in the elder line of the family, Anne, daughter and heiress of George Speke of White Lackington, married 20 May, 1756, Frederick, second Earl Guildford, and eighth Lord North, and the property passed with her.

Thomas Mogridge of Exeter (ob. 1617), one of the sons of John Mogridge, of Exeter and of Yealimptomin, was, like his grandfather, John Mogridge, a merchant at sea, *i.e.* he owned ships that traded to foreign countries—a species of property that in those days gave its owner much the same standing as the owner of real estate. He was the energetic and speculative one of the brothers, and took advantage of the bold buccaneering opportunities of that date—initiated by Sir Francis Drake—to increase the family estates. Yet he was mindful of the poor, for he built and endowed almshouses in Exeter for six poor men, his wife Dorothy, after his death, similarly building and endowing further houses for six poor women. He also by his will, which is enrolled at Somerset House, left a sum of money to build a house and endow the Rectory of Henwick, Devon. Full particulars of these endowments will be found in “Legacies to the Poor of Exeter,” by Isaacs, published at Exeter, 1820, a copy of which may be found in the library of the Heralds’ Office, and which contains particulars of the Mogridge arms, which are as follow :—

Quarterly : 1st and 4th, Party per pale or and az. three Eaglets displayed counterchanged ; 2nd and 3rd, Argent on a fes. Sa. betw. three Fleur-de-luces Az. three mullets or, on a chief engrailed sa. three lions of the fourth.

Crest : A spread Eagle.

The elder son of John Mogridge, of Exeter and of Yealimptomin, was named John after his father and grandfather ; and having been born in 1560, and dying about 1630, his life was passed amid that storm and turmoil of the Religious Revolution of the XVIth century. He seems to have been the first of the Mogridges in the elder branch to get imbued with that strong religious feeling which was alike shared by his descendants for four generations up to the time of John Mogridge, vicar of Pershore, three of whom were clergymen, all men of exemplary life and writers on religious matters. One of

the books he wrote was on "The Bitter Passion of Christ," dedicated to William Harris in 1626. He married Phillipa, daughter of Sir Richard Rynell, of Ford Abbey, near Newton, co. Devon. Ford Abbey was built by Sir Richard, and he entertained Charles I. there. Ford Abbey, with the property, passed, through the heiress of Sir Richard, to Sir William Waller, and as Sir William had no male heirs, then, through his heiress, to Sir William Courtenay.

The next in the line of descent is John Mogridge, who, having married Ellinor, the daughter of Joseph Carwardine, of Madeley, Herefordshire, moved into his wife's parish. The Carwardines were an old Herefordshire family, settled for centuries at Madeley, and descendants of theirs were, at the end of the XVIIIth century, living at St. John's, Worcester. This John Mogridge, who died in 1642 at Madeley, impressed, let us presume, with his father's book, "The Bitter Passion of Christ," wrote and published the same year, "A Divine Meditation upon the Bitter Passion of Christ," which, to say the least, was an excellent compliment to his father.

His son was Anthony Mogridge, who was rector of Martley, master of Martley Grammar School, and vicar of Kenswick. In the quaint wording of that day he is described as being "a clergyman of most exemplary life and conversation, and amongst other works he was author of 'Scriptural Distichs in Latin and English Verse'" (1693)^b. His wife, Sybilla Phillpot, was of the family of whom the present representatives are in Devonshire, the late Bishop of Exeter being of that family. In Anthony Mogridge's time they were a Gloucestershire family, and Sybilla was a common name amongst the women, which has been perpetuated in the present young generation by Sybil Hudson, a daughter of the author of this book.

Martley is within a drive of Worcester. In 1889 the Rectory was in the Hastings family, by whom it had been held for three generations. The hall is most ancient, with coats of arms around it. The house was then just as Mr. Mogridge had left it, except that the laundry had been turned into a study, and it had been necessary to cut down an enormous "Ilex" which hid the tower from the Rectory. *L'appetit vient en mangeant*, and what could we expect other than that so good a man would place his son there, in

^b The author hopes later to publish a History of the Mogridge family.

a like position in the Church, to continue on a similar exemplary life? So the boy Anthony, in 1705, was sent to Oxford, his father only living just long enough to see his son take his degree, and he ultimately was presented to the vicarage of Himbledon, in North Worcestershire ; but the pious bringing up by his father, added to the love of study he had imbibed at Oxford, resulted in a serious loss to his descendants, for, immersed in his books at his country vicarage, far away from any big centre of population, he grew into a recluse, and although he was heir to very considerable estates in Devonshire, and had the title-deeds in his own possession, he entirely neglected looking after the property ; and having allowed forty years to elapse without asserting his ownership his son and heir became barred by the efflux of time. His marriage with the heiress of Naunton Court, by Kempsey and Severn Stoke, brought him in the latter part of his life to live at Severn Stoke, and many of the family at this period will be found buried in the chancel of the church of that village. It has always struck me as a peculiarity of the Mogridge men about this period that, although they were men of exemplary lives, living all for the glory of God, they found sufficient time to appreciate the Scriptural blessing to the man "who hath his quiver full of them." We find the Rev. Anthony Mogridge, rector of Martley, with ten children ; his son, the Rev. Anthony Mogridge, vicar of Himbledon, with eleven children ; and his grandson, the Rev. John Mogridge, vicar of Pershore, with nine children ; clearly a swing back of the pendulum, a kind of reflex movement from the celibate parish clergy of the previous fifteen hundred years.

This Anthony Mogridge of Himbledon had several sons : the eldest, John Mogridge, was vicar of Pershore, as before mentioned, whose sons leaving no male issue, this branch of the family was left to be represented by the distaff side only ; but the second son (Matthias Mogridge, of Sidmouth) had descendants in the direct male line, of whom there is the Rev. Henry Twells Mogridge, sometime rector of Knill, Herefordshire, now vicar of Scalford, Melton Mowbray, who is the senior male representative at present of the whole Mogridge family, and he has issue. In addition to him there are, of a younger branch, Alban Humphrey Mogridge, at present in Canada, and his brother, Ridsdale Mogridge, a commander in the Merchant Service, both being sons of Edward Charles Mogridge,

who was the son of George Mogridge by his second wife, Mary Ridsdale.

This George Mogridge was better known as "Old Humphrey," and he was a writer of some note under the name of "Peter Parley," the style of his books somewhat anticipating Jules Verne in the interesting and fascinating way they conveyed scientific and natural facts to the young. He lived for many years at Hastings, and died there in 1854. The town of Hastings makes much of his memory as one of the attractions of the place. He was buried in the upper part of the churchyard of the old town, and there is a path beaten out on the turf by the footsteps of the pilgrims who go to visit his tomb. "Old Humphrey's Avenue," a name given to a street close to this church, keeps his memory green in the minds of the passers by.

John Mogridge, during the time he was vicar of St. Andrew's and curate of what remained of the Abbey Church, did much towards improving the services of the outlying villages around Pershore that were under his cure.

Wick-juxta-Pershore, Bricklehampton, Defford-cum-Besford—I fancy also one of the Combertons, and other villages—had to be served from Pershore in such intermittent a manner as the weather or the supply of curates would permit, as had been the fashion from the day when the good monks were ruthlessly driven out of Pershore Abbey; but, by appointing perpetual curates and allotting them the tithe approximating to their church, Mr. Mogridge improved the village services at the expense of his own clerical income. Probably here we see the first glint in this neighbourhood of the movement that has done so much during the last century to reform and brighten the services of the Church of England.

John Mogridge, Vicar of Pershore, who died 1796, had three sons and six daughters. The eldest surviving son, James Edward Mogridge, arrived at early manhood in a period of the country's history, very similar to what we have just experienced, when men of all ages in the kingdom felt that duty called them to fight for their country's honour. Napoleon was at this time riding rough shod over Europe, and tumbling over crowned heads as if they were so many billiard balls.

The Mogridges for many generations had always shewn a literary taste, and a religious tendency; but young James Edward, the son of our Pershore Vicar, at the age of 17, in the year 1808,

joins the Worcestershire Militia as Ensign. On the 10th April, 1809, he is seconded to the 34th foot: joined the army of Wellington on the continent, and on the 28th June, 1810, is given his Lieutenancy.

He was at the battle of Albutreva in 1811: at the battle of Orthay, Feb. 1813: at the battle of Thoulouse, April, 1813; and at the battle of Vittoria, 21 June, 1813, where he was severely wounded; finally retiring from the service in 1817 on pension, with an addition for blood money. How history indeed repeats itself, and how similar to this has been recently the action of so many of our countrymen in going to South Africa, to serve their Queen in the repression of the Boer rebellion. The Mogridges in the past were given to do many quaint things; and Lieutenant Edward was a Mogridge to the backbone. Some years after he had settled down in the enjoyment of his pension he seems to have cultivated extreme religious scruples, with the result that he absolutely refused to touch the gold of the government granted to him in the form of blood money, and so declined to draw that portion of his pension.

Now we may be intemperate in whiskey, in eating, in language, or in many things, all of which is commonly admitted; but it would be better if it were oftener realized that we can be extremely intemperate in what we fancy is religion, but which is not. This intemperance is perhaps more harmful to others than it is to ourselves.

The gallant Lieutenant's corybantic fit ran its course, and we then find him suing the Government for payment of the arrears of his blood money pension. He drew it thereafter to the end of his days, none the worse for it, and died peacefully in his bed, as a good Mogridge should, at the age of 76, and was buried in Pershore Abbey Churchyard, close to the east window of the new chancel.

Of the daughters of John Mogridge, Vicar of Pershore, one was Lydia, born 24 April, 1787, at the old Manor House of Naunton Court, near Severn Stoke; the residence of her paternal grandmother, with whom her mother was then staying.

When in her 17th year she married (5 March, 1804) William Marriott, of the Hon. East India Co.'s Civil Service, who was grandson of the Rev. Randolph Marriott, and his wife, the Lady

Diana, daughter of the 5th Earl of Denbigh, and therefore first cousin to General Marriott, who bought Avon Bank from Thomas Hudson. Mr. Marriott took his youthful bride out with him to India : but unfortunately dying there before he had been married over a year, his young widow returned to Pershore to her father's vicarage. She could only have been at home in Pershore a few months, when there came to her the romance of her life : those who knew her in her old days will be quite aware that she had no pretensions to good looks, in fact, it is in no way uncharitable to speak of her as plain. But what she lacked in beauty was more than made up for in personal charm, and the intelligence of a well-read woman ; besides, she had made a voyage to India when the passage from London to India took about six months in a sailing ship, and travel is as helpful to a woman as it is to a man.

The old French War was then in full swing, and down to Worcestershire one day comes Capt. Robert Wyndham Lathorp Murray, of the 1st Regiment Royals, commissioned to raise a regiment of cavalry in the county. He pitched upon our little town of Pershore, then a kind of miniature Cheltenham, as the most suitable and perhaps the most pleasant place to make his head-quarters.

Where "Les Militaires" are in question history ever repeats itself, no matter what part of the world is the spot ; the jingle of the military spurs and the clank, clank, of the heavy steel cavalry scabbard on the cobbled stones (infantry wore leather scabbards in those days), of course took by storm the hearts of the Pershore maidens in particular, and the maidens in the surrounding neighbourhood in general. Routs and dances were got up for this dashing young cavalry officer, aide-de-camp to the Duke of Kent, for whom he might well have been substituted, Guelph not only in appearance but in character as he was.

However, amongst all the pretty women that tripped with their sandalled feet around him, he preferred the charms of the young widow Marriott, and when Captain Murray had finished his work and drove away from Pershore in his four-in-hand, Mrs. Marriott—as the late George Hudson always put it—drove away with him on the box seat. The marriage was a romantic one, and I believe did not turn out a very successful arrangement ;

evidently they had to reckon with an irate father, as they were not married in Pershore, but went elsewhere for that ceremony; but the old parson's anger was of short duration, and the advent of the first-born put all matters straight, for in the parish register of St. Andrew's Church we find the following entry in the handwriting of the wife's father, the Vicar of Pershore:—"Christenings.—June 7th, 1807, Edward Kent Strathearne, son of Robert Wyndham Lathorp Murray and Lydia Murray." To this boy, H.R.H. The Duke of Kent, father to our late Queen, stood godfather; which was a helpful interest to the lad in after life.

Colonel Kent Edward Strathearne Murray served in the campaign in Spain, as aide-de-camp to General de Lacy Evans, who took a great personal fancy to him; later he was appointed to the German Legion, and served in South Africa with that four-battalion regiment: he was Knight of St. Francis and Knight of the Holy Order of Jesus Christ, and died 6 May, 1884, in London. He had married as his first wife Harriet, daughter of Lieutenant-General Sir John Shafto Orde of Westwood Hall, Northumberland, and of his wife, the Lady Louisa Jocleyne, daughter of Robert, 1st Earl of Roden, who was a ward in Chancery, with a fortune of £30,000, and by her he had a son, Auguste Staveley Murray, born 1834, and died 12 December, 1891, in Dublin, where he was buried with full military honours, being a Colonel in H. M. Service, and having married Hayti Anna, daughter of Capt. Ussher, R.N., and grand-daughter of Admiral Sir Thomas Ussher, by whom he had two children: Herbert, at present a Captain in the Black Watch, and a daughter, Lydia.

Colonel Edward Kent Strathearne Murray married secondly, Augusta, daughter of Robert Bennett of Gorton Hall, co. Lancaster (see Bennett pedigree), by whom he had issue, a son, Felix Strathearne Murray, who died unmarried in 1887, and a daughter, Beatrice Zolila Murray.



CHAPTER XVII.

Recent Days.



XVII.

PEDIGREES OF WHITEHEAD AND OF BENNETT,

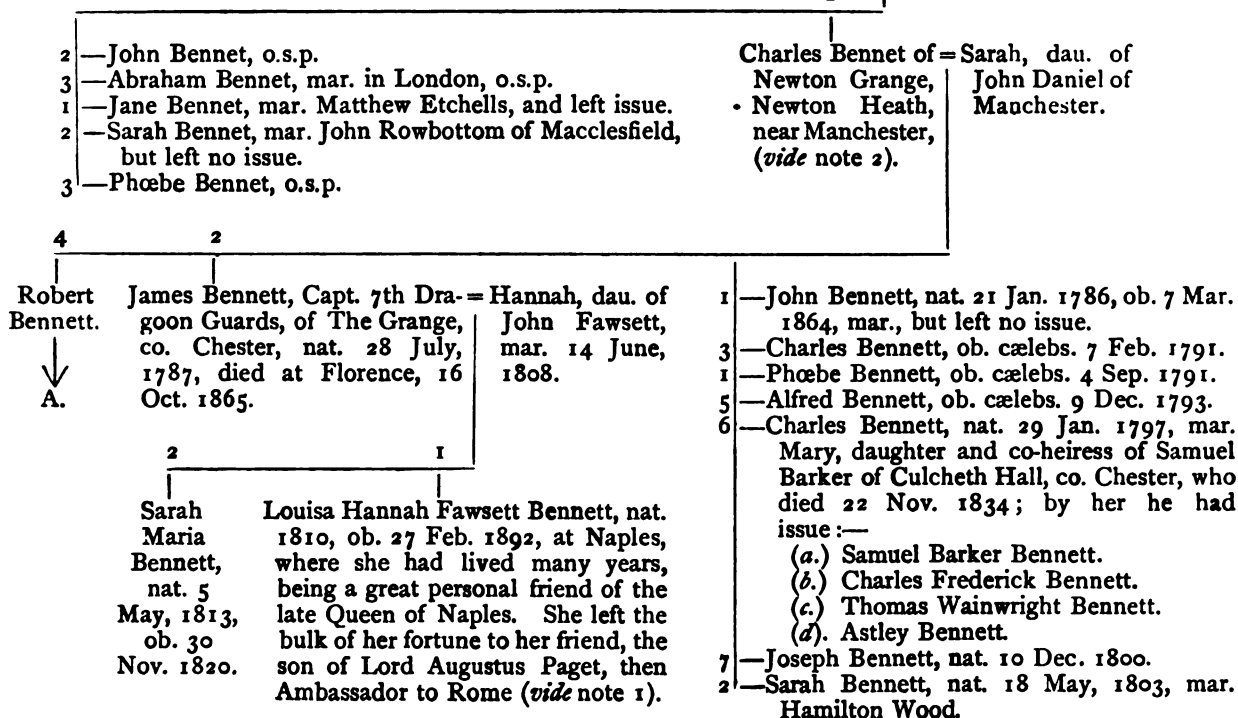
SHEWING THE DESCENT OF

Mrs. CHARLES EDWARD MOGRIDGE HUDSON.

BENNETT.

ABRAHAM BENNET of Macclesfield, nat. *temp.* 1700 = unknown.

John Bennet of Hurdsfield, near Macclesfield, nat. *temp.* 1730 = Phoebe Wood.



WHITEHEAD.

John Whitehead of Withington = unknown.
 Lodge, co. Lancaster.

John Whitehead = Maria, dau. and co-heiress
 of Withington of Samuel Barker of Cul-
 Lodge, co. Lan- cheth Hall, co. Chester,
 caster. and great niece of William
 Assheton, last of the As-
 shetons of Shepley Hall,
 Ashton-under-Lyne.

↓
 B.

Robert Bennett of Gorton = Anne, dau. and co-heiress of Samuel
 Hall, near Manchester, Barker of Culcheth Hall, co. Ches-
 nat. 21 Sep. 1792, ob. 20 ter, and great niece of William
 July, 1873, bur. at New- Assheton, last of the Asshetons
 ton Heath. of Shepley Hall, Ashton-under-
 Lyne.

↓
 C.

In speaking of the descent of the women that he married, we have wandered somewhat away from George Bengough Hudson, who was sufficiently well known by everybody around and beloved by the poor to justify me giving some particulars about him.

He was born at Upper Wick House on the 13th August, 1809, and, similarly with two other of his brothers, Henry and Charles, was educated at Radley School*, near Oxford, to which place their father used to drive them in his Curricie: a large kind of dog-cart for four persons on two wheels with a pole hanging to a splinter bar, that played across the harness saddles of the pair of horses that drew it. A very smart turn-out was the Curricie, and much in vogue in the first half of the last century. Alfred, the youngest son (now of Wyke House), was educated at King's College, London, and is an A.K.C. A lad of high spirits was George, passionately fond of horses, and impatient of the more severe parental control that was the fashion in those days; adopted presumably on the principle that boys were, or at least should be, a kind of pocket edition of all the virtues and of the rules of life laid down in Blair's sermons; which sermons, even as late as my young days, were administered weekly in doses that certainly could not be called Homœopathic. When I look back upon the Sunday of my early youth at Wick it even now makes me shudder; and if that is so, what must it have been in my father's boyish days, when the English nation was still more inclined to be serious? Although nearly half a century has passed since those solemn, dirgeful days, I see them in my mind's eye to-day as plain as if it were yesterday.

No light conversation; laughing was accounted bad form; whistling of course was a distinct sign of original sin and sternly repressed. In addition to the Bible, Blair's sermons and Fox's Book of Martyrs were the only literary food one could dare to assimilate; even to go a walk was not good form, and for the fresh air necessary for health, one kept religiously from the public highways, and wandered about the privacy of the Hudson property. This Sabbatical idea still survives in a rudimentary form. Leaving his hall door with a friend I was recently staying with in the country, and armed with a walking-stick for a country

* The present Radley College is an entirely different foundation; most schools now-a-days seem to be dubbed Colleges.

walk, he interjects—"Please take an umbrella, if you don't mind. It is Sunday, and it looks better!!"

The brightness and lightheartedness of youth should be allowed to flow on Sundays as well as weekdays; if by repression you kill it—and you can do so only too easily—the result in a girl is generally a loss of that inexpressible charm with which Providence endowed her to attract and to charm, and to be sweet; in a boy it probably changes a straightforward character into a deceitful one.

I will not say that parents are wiser now, because each generation follows the habits of the day; but a wave of common-sense has spread itself gradually during the last half century over our insular prejudices; and it is now realised that brightness of spirits, laughter and natural enjoyments are not only not inconsistent with a true and perfect religion, but are the very essence of it. One of the wisest of the early Fathers wrote, "that no man's religion was of any value if he were afraid to laugh at it, and with it."

This is somewhat of a digression: but increase to a certain extent the severity of this Sunday of my own experience to bring it back to my father's youth, and then one need not wonder as to much that happened after.

George Hudson's one great fascination was the love of horses and of hunting. As a youth, when he could not get a mount, he would take one of his father's colts out of the fields and with it follow the hounds; and this love of horses threw him into the company of, and caused him to be taken by the hand at an early age by, the sportsmen in the neighbourhood.

About this time there came to Pershore to live, a Mr. John Davenport Bromfield, a man of good family, but who having run through the greater part of a large inheritance had settled down in Pershore to live on the collected remnants that were left of his fortune. He was a good judge of a horse, a keen hunting man, and his birds would hold their own in a main of cocks. In fact he was an all-round man of field sports, and he took kindly to George Hudson as a lad with the true ideas of a sportsman. Mr. Bromfield had a daughter Margaret, a tall, fine, handsome woman, and as a matter of course, George Hudson and she fell in love with one another, and became engaged. But

Margaret, although very well bred, was credited with only having her face for a fortune, and so the father, Henry Hudson I., after the fashion of the period, absolutely forbade the marriage. There was at Pershore at the same time a Miss Frances Mary Oldaker, living with her mother, a daughter of John Mogridge, Vicar of Pershore, and widow of Charles Oldaker, who had died leaving two daughters with a dot of £12,000 each. Miss Oldaker was a pretty and petite blonde, very well read, speaking French and Italian; she had been to Paris, and she also was very much in love with George Hudson, whose father was anxious that he should marry her; so George Hudson became the philosopher, bent his spirit to his father's will, and sacrificed his love-dreams at the altar of parental obedience, by leading to the altar-rails in Pershore Church Miss Frances Mary Oldaker. The wedding was a double one, in that on the same day and at the same altar-rails, the Rev. George Port, of Doverdale, a young curate a little older than George Hudson, married the widow Oldaker, the mother of the younger bride.

Although I should not, under the circumstances, be here to write, and anything recorded of Hudson-of-Wick would have fallen to other hands, yet probably, if George Hudson had had the moral courage to stand to his guns, and marry the woman he loved best, it might have been the better for him; matters also were not improved by what occurred soon after his marriage.

At Ashton-under-Hill, nearly opposite to where the Baldwins lived, and I presume live now, is an old-fashioned Manor House of goodly dimensions, but which has not been properly kept up for the last three quarters of a century. At this house there then resided a brother to John Davenport Bromfield. He lived in a quiet, unostentatious way, and no one was aware that as a matter of fact he was not only very well off, but very wishful for George Hudson to marry his niece Margaret, and if for love of herself alone, he would have made her his heiress. The old gentleman said nothing of his inclinations; but when the nuptial knot as mentioned above was irrevocably tied, Bromfield of Ashton-under-Hill told George Hudson that it was a pity he had not married the dowerless maiden, as he would have given her £10,000 the day she had married him. I have before me as I

write some of the old correspondence between John Davenport Bromfield and George Hudson, and the letters indicate what a charming man Mr. Bromfield must have been: he was many years Master of the Worcestershire Foxhounds that in those days hunted the Bredon Hill country, and he acted as second to George Hudson, who had challenged to a duel some one in Pershore that he considered had insulted him; the weapons being cavalry holster pistols, and the scene of the duel the garden running down to the Avon of Dr. Davies' house, opposite the 'Three Tuns Inn.' I believe just as they were about to fire they were interrupted by the Town Constable, brought on the scene by another Pershore Doctor, of less combative inclinations.

I have purposely mentioned these incidents in my father's early life as he was a man who lived much in the light of day, and came in perhaps for more than his fair share of criticism. It is well for us to remember the kindly French saying, "To know all, is to forgive all."

When George Bengough Hudson married Miss Frances Mary Oldaker in 1832, he lived for a few years in a house at the bottom of the Broad Street, Pershore; but as he was then farming some of his uncle Richard's estate, he got this uncle to alter the farm-house at the upper end of the Wick village, called Glenmore House, and make it suitable for a gentleman to live in; George Hudson lived at this house until he finally gave up everything to do with farming, in 1870.

For many years, whilst living at Glenmore House, George Hudson, following in the steps of his uncle, Thomas Hudson, of Avon Bank, kept and hunted a pack of Harriers. These Harriers, if I remember rightly, he sold in the spring of 1848 to Mr. James Farmer, who lived at the upper end of the village, at a farm-house^b now called the Grange; but poor Mr. Farmer could not ever have carried the horn to them, in that he was accidentally shot when down his farm in the company of a neighbour in the autumn of that year. What became of the hounds after that I cannot say, but I think they were afterwards hunted for some years from Cropthorne.

Keeping Harriers was only a secondary consideration with

^b It was then a thatched farm-house, the South portion of the house has been built later.

my father. Hunting proper is of course with Foxhounds, and he was a keen follower of the neighbouring packs of hounds; preferring to hunt with the then Lord Fitzhardinge (the Master of the Flat Hat Hunt of Sponges Sporting Tour), who hunted what is now the North Cotswold country alternately each fortnight with the Berkeley country. When Lord Fitzhardinge hunted the Cotswold country each alternate fortnight he used to make his head-quarters at Cheltenham, posting each hunting-day from the 'Plough' at Cheltenham to the 'Lygon Arms' at Broadway with four horses, allowing them only fifty minutes to do it in. Woe betide the post-boys who exceeded that time! This reminds me that it was the last day of the season, 1844-5, when Lord Fitzhardinge's met at Broadway, that the writer of this book first saw the light; for my father used to say, that having killed their fox that day near Spring Hill Lodges, he was riding home with Dr. Haines of Evesham, and when they got to Bengeworth that worthy Doctor pressed my father to go and dine with him; but George Hudson replied, "No thank you, Haines, I'll get on home, as I expect a young fox to break cover to-night." So, as he used to tell me, "I got home in good time to find the young fox 'gone away'; and that cub was you, my boy."

In fact, from the day George Hudson donned scarlet, in the year of his marriage, 1832, close up to the year of his death, a period of 50 years, he had always ridden in scarlet, and never missed a season, with the exception of the winter following on the death of his first wife, when he hunted in a black Melton coat as the sportsman's tribute of respect to she who had died.

It may interest those who knew him in later life to know that, tall as he stood (nearly six foot three I think it was), he rode under 13 stone 10, up to the age of 40.

The year 1851, after nineteen years of married life and bearing to her husband nine children, saw the death of the first Mrs. George Bengough Hudson, and the grave closed over a most gentle and self-denying woman, a good wife and an affectionate mother, whose loss to her children cannot be assessed. It is always a loss,—no hand, no eye can replace the kindly hand, the loving advice of a mother, and this was no exception to the rule. There was one vacant place left in the Mogridge vault in Pershore Abbey

Church, which by rights belonged to her uncle, Lieutenant Edward Mogridge, but my mother was a great favourite of the old veteran, who waived his rights to a niche in the family vault, and allowed her to be buried there,—the last woman to be buried within the four walls of our grand old Abbey Church.

About 1858, George Hudson married a second time, in the person of Sarah Maria Amelia Cole, *nee* Mogridge, a widow, and also cousin to his first wife, Frances Mary Oldaker.

Some few years after this he went to live at Bricklehampton Court, and thereafter took that old Elizabethan House at Broadway, called Tudor House, all of which places he used to say were well within view of Bredon Hill, and that hill he would never live out of the sight of.

He died at Broadway, in 1883, and was buried in Wick church-yard, the first of the Hudsons to break the sod of that burying-ground which the Pershore Church authorities had for so many years refused the inhabitants of Wick their common rights to have^c.

There is a well-known incident in the best days of his hunting career that was known to all men of his generation.

The opening meet of that season was as usual at Croome House, and then, as now, the hospitality of the Earl of Coventry ran free and generous at the hunt breakfast. After breakfasting well, some one wagered George Hudson that he could not jump the spiked iron railings in front of the house, between the lawn and the park. He took the wager, and in cold blood cantered at the railings; a Pershore Doctor, looking upon it as a mad freak, rushed in front to stop him; the horse swerved, nevertheless cleared the fence, although striking a spike with his hoof, bending it down, but not unseating the rider. The rail-head was purposely left bent down for many years, as a memento of the pluck of the rider. That was in the reign of the grandfather of the present Earl of Coventry.

Once my father was going to the meet at Spring Hill Lodges, and as he was riding through the upper end of Broadway village, just where you begin to rise the hill, he heard some one view-holloaing him from behind; turning round who should he find but Viscount Deerhurst^d, scarlet-coated, and top-booted, riding a donkey. To my father's great amusement, he explained that he had just come from

^c See Appendix VIII.

of Coventry, but he never came in to the

^d This was the father of the present Earl Earldom.

Oxford by coach, expecting to find his horse at the 'Lygon Arms'; but evidently his groom had gone on to the Meet, and this was the only mount of any kind he could procure to take him there. "If you will only be good enough, Hudson," he said, "to give me a lead at a dog-trot, my moke will then canter behind, but he wont budge by himself;" and in this way they got on to Spring Hill Lodges in capital style, and in good time.

Before passing away altogether from George Hudson, I cannot help copying from his pocket-book of the year 1860 the account he had therein written of what I have always heard him speak of as the best run of his life:—

"WORCESTERSHIRE FOXHOUNDS.

"The Meet was at Bredon Hill on Friday last, and after drawing Elmley Wood and the adjoining coverts blank, we passed on to that well-known nursery for the Varmint, Battens Wood, where up jumped a leash of foxes, this dividing the hounds; but the great skill and quickness of the Whips soon got them together again, and they settled on a right good dog-fox which broke away for Westmancote Bushes. On leaving that place, he doubled back and pointed his head towards the Vale for Little Comberton, leaving the field behind lost in a heavy fog. Through Comberton rough, along the Pensham Fields into Mr. Wilson's meadow; here they got up to him within 20 yards of the Avon. Being so hard pressed, in he went with all the hounds (except two) after him, chasing him 300 yards down the river: the stream being so rapid, he could not land till he reached Birlingham rough bank. Here he shook himself twice, then crossing Mr. Woodward's Farm entered Tiddesley Wood at the brook, through the Wood, and over Mr. Bullock's Farm. Here they got up to sly Reynard again, but being chased by a shepherd's dog, he put his best foot foremost for Lady Wood; through it, and then to Croome Ferry, with the hounds close at his brush. At this moment up jumped a fresh fox; some went away for Croome House, the rest for Pirton. Three or four of the Field now put in an appearance and whipped them off at Croome Gardens and brought them back to Pershore.

"Never was a better pack of hounds seen by the Covert side as they on this occasion proved. Long may their noble Masters, Colonel Clewes and Captain Cookes, live to see such a run as the one they unfortunately missed on Friday last.

"*Nov. 26th, 1860.*

"G. B. HUDSON."

The sportsman's modesty does not mention it, but George

Hudson was with the hounds from find to finish, having swam the Avon.

An oil-painting of George Hudson, done in 1844, is in possession of the writer; it was chiefly for the purpose of having a painting of a favourite hunter of his called "Swop," and to commemorate a run with the Cheltenham. The painting was chiefly done by Whitford of Evesham, but the horse's head and some other parts of him were painted by the celebrated animal painter, Walter Woodward, uncle of Dr. Martin Woodward of Pershore. A remarkable point about it is that any one who has been to the East can see at once it is a pure-blood Arab, and with the unmistakable kink in the tail that pure Arabs always have by carrying their tail on one side. George Hudson never knew it was an Arab; he bought it at an auction sale at Cheltenham, simply on his own remarkable power of judgment in horse flesh, and I do not suppose that either of the painters knew it was an Arab, and yet they have given the tell-tale kink.

The Cheltenham men having heard so much of George Hudson and this horse with the neighbouring packs, were not content till they had got him down to one of their Meets, and when there, laughed heartily at the presumption of the big man with the small white horse, which he had ridden over from Wick, thinking he could live with them, most of whom had a second horse out. However, after a long run, when the fox was brushed, George Hudson was there and the rest nowhere. The painting depicts him dismounted from his horse, and coming up in the distance are three Pershore hunting-men, Dr. Davies, Mr. Claridge, and Mr. Hunter.

Of the children of George Bengough Hudson, the married ones are:—Charles Edward Mogridge Hudson, now of Richmond-on-Thames, the youngest but only surviving son, born 19th April, 1845, and who married, 24th October, 1871, at St. Mary of the Angels, Bayswater, Emily Augusta (Minnie) Whitehead*, and by whom he has issue four children (see Hudson Pedigree). And of two daughters who married: one is the present Mrs. Hugh Robinson of Preston House, Pershore, who, as Susan Louisa Hudson, was married in 1868 to Hugh Robinson, first of the 13th Light Infantry (Prince Consort's Own), later resigning his commission to take

* For descent of Emily A. Whitehead, see Pedigree at commencement of this Chapter.

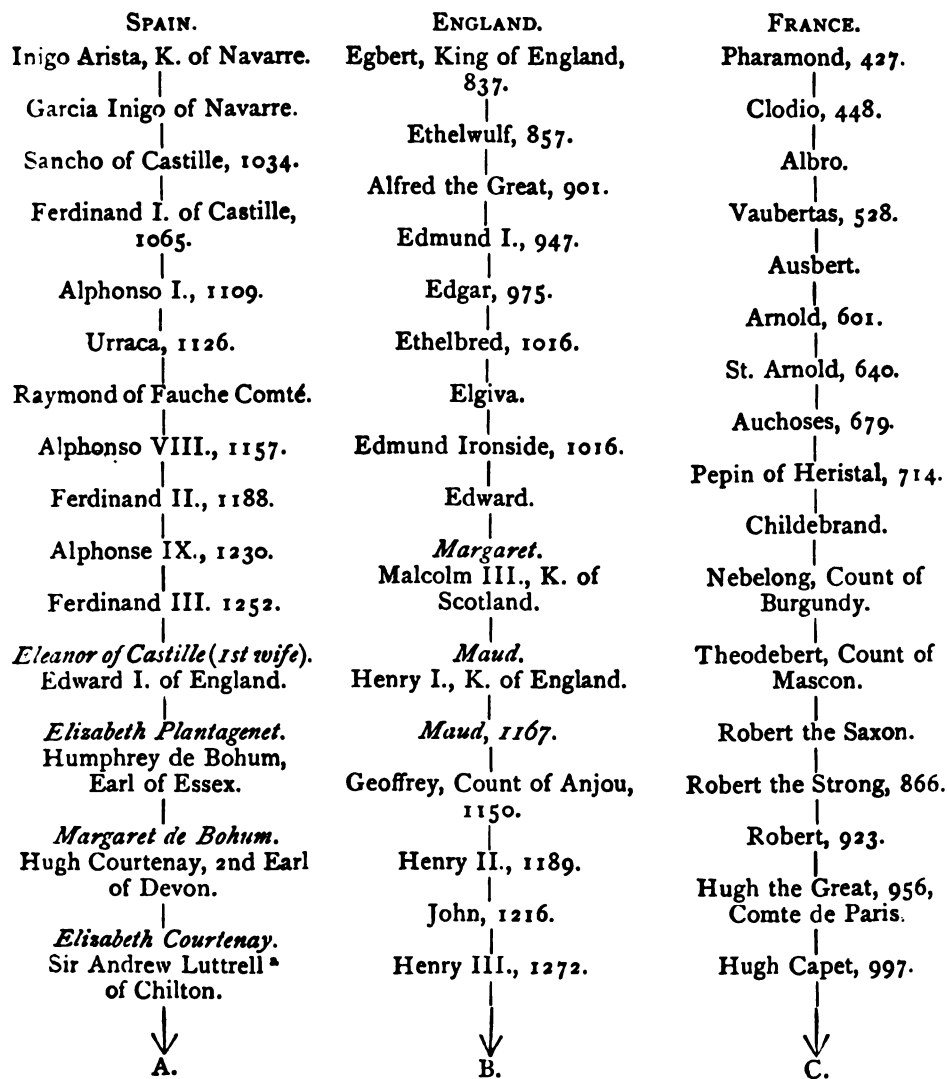
up the medical profession, and being youngest son of Captain Charles Robinson, R.N., of Ripon, and grandson of Admiral Hugh Robinson, a well-known face in York Society during the end of the 18th century.

Hugh Robinson died 1888, and was buried at Wick, having left a legacy as charity in perpetuity called the "Hugh Robinson Gift" for the poor of Wick.

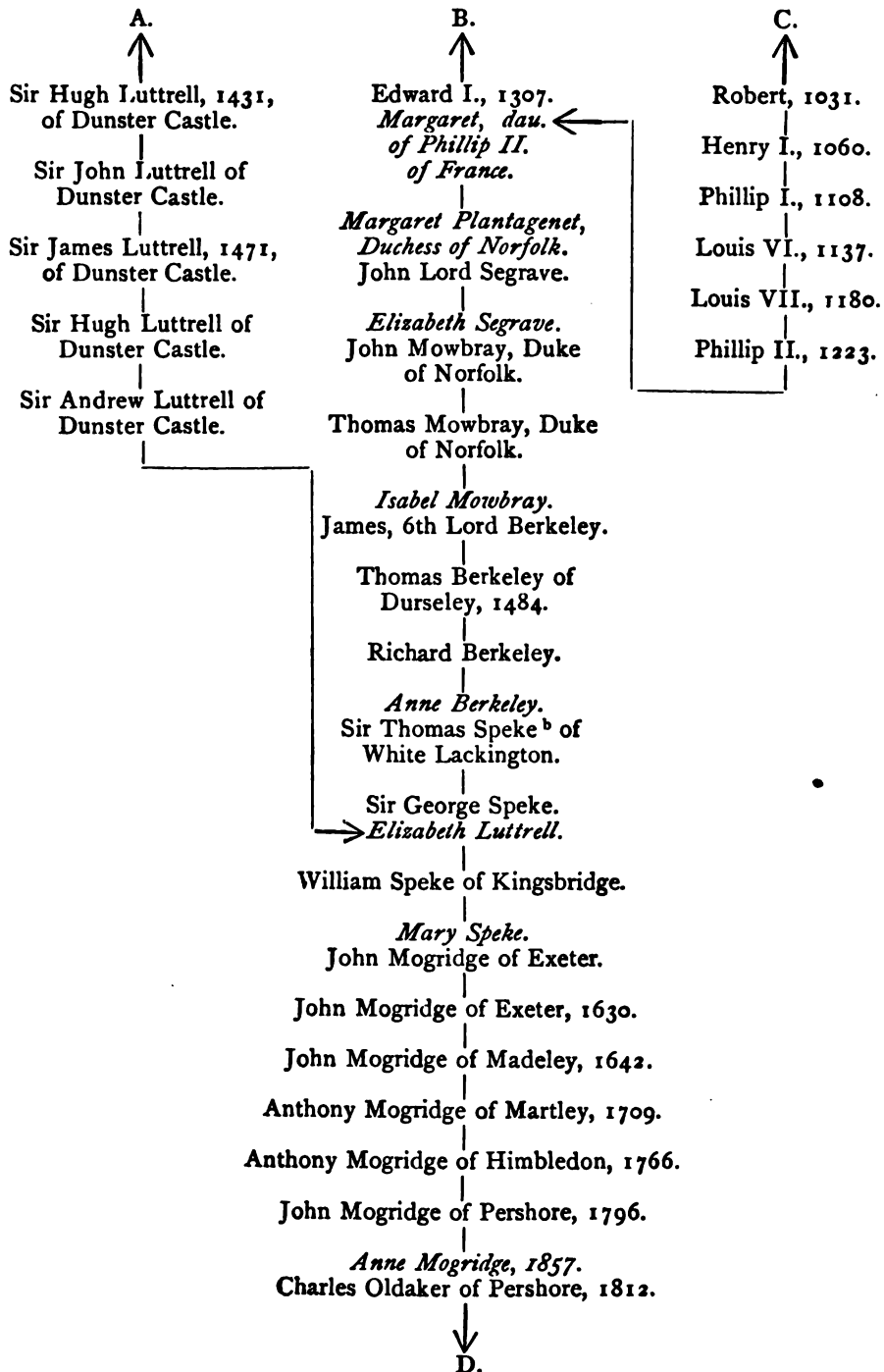
The other was Ellen Claridge Hudson, who married (1861) Martin Woodward of Pershore, son of William Woodward, also of Pershore, and the issue of whom are duly set out in the Hudson Pedigree.

- The children of George Bengough Hudson, through the distaff side, have a descent which is interesting, so I have set it out to follow.

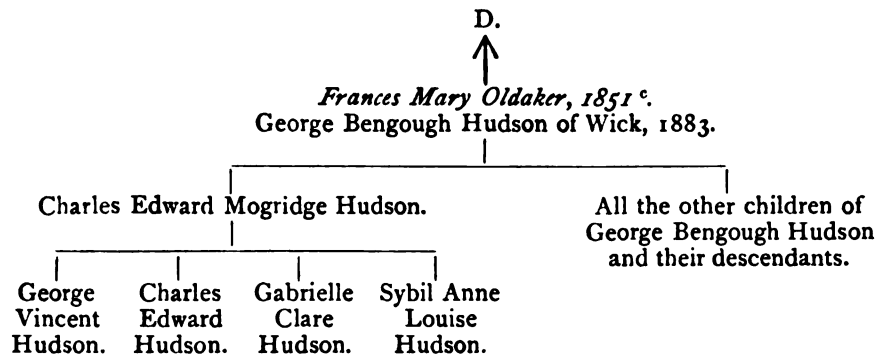
TRUE BLOOD DESCENT
OF
THE MOGRIDGE FAMILY,
AND THEREFORE OF
THE CHILDREN OF CHARLES OLDAKER OF PERSHORE,
AND THEIR DESCENDANTS.



^a For Luttrell Pedigree, see Burke's "Landed Gentry."



^b For Speke Pedigree, see Burke's "Landed Gentry."

Hudson of Wick.

* I have only continued on the descendants of Frances Mary Oldaker and George B. Hudson; there are also the descendants of her sister, Jane Oldaker, who mar. Thomas Warrington.

CHAPTER XVIII.

Hudson Bay Memoirs.



XVIII.

ALL through the best part of the last century, Wick was commonly known from a social point of view by the name of 'Hudsons' Bay.' At the death of Richard Hudson I., in 1805, there then continued on for the best part of the half century, Richard Hudson II., at Wyke House, Thomas Hudson, at Avon Bank, and Henry Hudson I., at Upper Wick House. Then up to quite recent years there was the next generation, Henry Hudson II., at the Elms or at Vandyke, George Hudson at Glenmore, Charles Hudson at Upper Wick House, and Alfred Hudson at Wyke House, so no wonder they dubbed it "Hudsons' Bay."

But both these periods seem not complete without I mention the name of Dr. Francis Davies of Pershore, a sporting doctor who, similarly with "parson" George Port (a well-known local clergyman), grew with the century, both being born in 1800, and both marrying widows who were both of them Oldakers, as is shewn in the Oldaker and Mogridge Pedigrees. Dr. Davies was a great diner out, and although he has been dead some five and twenty years, I am told that even now there are few dinner parties held in the neighbourhood at which he is not present when the decanters begin their circular journeys. He was one of those men who have a peculiarly clear cut and distinct characteristic of their own. A Welshman by birth; after he had secured his medical diplomas, he voyaged for a few years at sea, as surgeon of a whaler, both in the Arctic regions and in Southern seas. That experience, as he once told me, effectually sweeping away out of his brains any of the cobwebs of narrowness of mind that the life of a medical student had not already made a clearance of, and helping him to an insight into human nature that was of more use to him in building up a lucrative practice than all the medicine he had ever learned.

Those were the days when a doctor's bill contained every item, and was as long as the dressmaker's bill of Hogarth's paintings; but that little mattered, in that then—and not as is now the fashion—one seldom *saw* them until they were handed in to one's Executors.

When Dr. Davies first started practice in Pershore, he wore a navy-blue swallow-tail coat with gold buttons, a yellow waistcoat, corded breeches with high boots, and a curled-up-at-the-sides top hat, the shape of which he ever religiously adhered to; he wore it at race meetings or at funerals, in the hunting-field or at church, the only variation being the material. In fine weather it was beaver, but in bad weather it shone out in all the glories of a tarpaulin hat. He made very little alteration in this dress up to the day of his death.

An old-fashioned port man, his invariable allowance was a bottle a day, with an extra one or so at dinner parties: of later years he stuck to his bottle a day, but he eschewed other wines, commencing it with his soup and drinking it right through to the end.

Port, I heard him once say, was his very best friend; it not only smoothened life by the good company it engendered, but it brought him his most paying patients.

One day at dinner, remarking that if he found himself penniless in any part of the world he felt confident he could soon get on, a lady asked him what he would do if he was dropped on the top of Malvern Hill with nothing on. "Gad! Madam! I should go down to the first cottage and ask for a shirt."

A fellow-townsmen in Pershore better off than he was "quite," was the doctor's special "bete noir." One day they met at dinner, when hashed venison, well hung, was the course being handed. It came first to the doctor's "bete noir," who on winding it said, "No! thanks! it is too high for me." Later, being handed to the doctor (who was credited with being slightly deaf), he helped himself with gusto, remarking, "Ah! it takes a gentleman to appreciate high meat: tailors like it fresh."

The doctor in a bonhomie manner exercised a good deal of educational influence as to good form on the young men of the neighbourhood, who received from him many a kindly hint. If he saw one of them driving fast through the town, he would stop him and say, "Good God! Sir! don't do that! butchers only drive fast!"

Any one riding with the end of the stirrup-leather tucked back in the buckle, or in one of those favourite bits of leather so much now in use, would (if a youth he took any interest in) be stopped by him. He would take the end of the stirrup-leather

out saying, that he was sure the rider did not wish to be taken for a harness maker.

When he bought a young horse that suited him as a hunter he would have him slightly fired on all legs, considering it as a preventive to strained sinews, and much more sensible (although of course a slight blemish) than waiting until the sprains appeared.

I do not think that any one ever saw Dr. Davies riding out of a walk or at most a dog-trot on the hard road : but then he lived in the day before the green turf had been filched from our road-sides.

One invariable rule of his was never to recognise any one through a window, when passing their house. He said it was a breach of etiquette to stare into a window, and if you were not looking you could not see.

Practically in this he only adapted the courtesy of the East, as when passing the windows of a royal Harem etiquette lays down the rule to look the other way. I would recommend any one who is doubtful on this point to go and stare at the windows of a Royal Harem, and see what will happen.

One of our greatest ministers won a diplomatic victory over his American confrere, by his following the etiquette of the country. It was in the streets of Teheran, and the Shah was driving by with his favourite wife, when every good Persian, with the fear of the rod before him, went into his house or vanished out of sight. The British and American ministers were walking together ; the American with his every-man-equal principle faced the carriage, only to be roughly hustled by the runners into a side street, but the British Minister, with diplomatic tact, turned his face to the wall and saluted with his hand behind his coat tails.

One day in the fifties, after a day's hunting in the Broadway country, the doctor was returning home to Pershore the shorter way, along the old Roman road that runs by Somerville's Aston and Hinton-on-the-Green. He stopped at Goughs, who lived in the old stone-built manor house at Hinton, for gruel for his horse, when Gough persuaded him to stop and join the dinner table ; so the doctor knowing the quality of the Hinton man's cellar was nothing loth.

Now Gough had an attack of gout, and his medical adviser had strictly forbidden port ; but the appreciative way in which

his guest was discussing the decanter of port, all to himself, induced him to beg the doctor to say that one glass would do no harm. "Good God! Sir!" said Dr. Davies, "it would be as much as your life is worth." A second cork was drawn, the guest going on steadily by himself, when Gough again pleaded, "Oh, Doctor dear! do say that one glass would not hurt me." But the wine being very fine, he met only with a more persistent refusal on the part of the doctor.

After a very half-hearted protest on the part of Dr. Davies, a third bottle was produced; but this was more than poor Gough could stand. "Really, Doctor! I may have just one glass of this bottle?"

Dr. Davies poured out the first glass, nosed it, held it to the candle, sipped it. "Good God! Sir!" he exclaimed, "you can drink the whole damned bottle."—It was corked.

Every one knows the meadow on the town side of Pershore Bridge where the youths of Pershore have from time immemorial bathed. One fine summer day a lady from one of the neighbouring villages—who was always tilting a lance with the Doctor—met him just as she had crossed the bridge driving into Pershore. "Really, Dr. Davies," she exclaims, "it is absolutely disgraceful that you people at Pershore should allow those boys to bathe there so close to the public road." "Boys! Madam!" replied the Doctor, scanning the bathers with his hand to his eyes. "Boys! Madam! did you say? Gad! Madam! you have better eyes than I have."

He generally tried to combine his duty to his patients with his love of sport, and once received a message in the early morning that one of his lady patients, who was delicate, required his services. Now the Foxhounds met the same day a few miles further on, so the Doctor thought he could in effect kill two birds—as the saying is—with one stone. So he started off from Pershore early in the morning, hoping to have finished with his patient in time to get on to the Meet. But as eleven o'clock drew near he could not—although in the sick-room—conceal his impatience, and at last, after one or two struts up and down the room, he exclaims, "Good God! Madam! If you don't make haste I shall lose my meet of hounds!"

The grass grows high now over the Doctor's grave, so I may tell one of the secrets of his conversational success. From the day

that that brilliantly clever weekly, the "Saturday Review," was first published, the Doctor—perhaps the only person to do so in the neighbourhood—took it in: but when he had read it he did not pass it round, but he — burnt it. This was a basis for his weekly budget of clever conversation.

One word I would like to say about the old Wick custom of "firing the Anvil" at weddings. With all seriousness I say—unfortunately—this custom has within the last few years been stopped; I say this in that it is only these old village customs that earmark the rural life from that of towns.

Wick has always been a favoured village as regards its residents, in fact its closeness to Pershore, and the good road running between the town and the village, marked it as a place of residence. Some of the neighbouring villages were not long since practically cut off from the outside world in the wet winters. Take for instance Bricklehampton. An old cottager there, told me, that when he was a boy the roads were entirely impassable for wheeled vehicles during the winter, and in order to take corn to market, they had to carry it on the backs of horses from the village up to the wagons in the high road at Cropthorne Heath: that sometimes the roads were too much of a slough for even a horse to travel them, and he had often known the late William Henry Mogridge, the Curate, only able to ride there from Wick by picking his way across country on the firmest ground. Wick being so favoured a village, had to devise some method of making a demonstration at the weddings of the maidens that it loved, and for hundreds of years it has been the custom at weddings to fire a "feu-de-joie." This was done by every one in the village who had something that would 'go off' collecting at the Church, and together with the big piece of ordnance, "the Anvil," salvo after salvo was fired as the bride passed from the Church door down the pathway to the road.

The anvil was an old one kept for the purpose, and transported on a pair of drill wheels. In it was cut a hole about 2 inches square, and 4 inches deep, with a touch-hole drilled slantingdicularly into it. You put your charge of powder in, drove in an ashen plug with a sledge-hammer, primed the touch-hole, when a red-hot poker did the rest; the result was overwhelming as far as noise went, and at least every one was delighted.

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The powers that be have abolished this old Wick custom of "Firing the Anvil," but there is one little precious tradition belonging to the Wicks that they are helpless to do away with, and one that will last there as long as human body is made of flesh and bone, and the great unknown future lies still unravelled. A little gentle identity with pink eyes, bright as fire, and the whitest of snow-white coats, that 500 years ago peered up into the faces of the women of Wick, as on moonlight nights they passed along the Waylands, going home from attending the grand evening services at the old Abbey, wending their way all too slow, hanging on the arms of their lovers; similarly as it now and then wonderingly stares up into the face of the Wick maiden of to-day: who, although finer dressed, listens with just as wrapt delight to the love-tales poured into her ears as she dawdles through the Waylands, until reminded by the little pink eyes that she should hurry home; and as it will 500 years hence similarly peer up into the spectacled eyes of the woman of that period, who no matter in what rational costume she may be dressed, or how little of natural healthy feelings an advanced unreasonable civilization may have left her, will still take a weak delight in listening to the words of love that will be spoken, and must exist as long as the world lasts as an inhabited Planet. Tradition says that if a maiden sees the little pink eyes she must run away home as fast as she can, for words of love spoken in their presence are always false ones. The French say that wherever a daisy rears its head, it marks a spot where a lover has broken his troth. We are not so bad off as this at Wick, but far be it from me to make light of this tradition of the inhabitants of the Manors of Wike Burnell and of Wyke Waryn, for it is only the little Wayland Mouse.



APPENDICES.

APPENDIX I.

(See page 113.)

INDENTURE OF MORTGAGE, JAMES HAZLEWOOD TO THE REV.
BERNARD WILSON, 1745. (Excerpt from Deed in Rolls
Court.)

INDENTURE dated 27 August, 1745, Between (1st) Francis Lay of London, (2nd) James Hazlewood of Wick, Esq., only son and heir of Thomas Hazlewood, late of Wick, and of Ann his wife [This Thomas Hazlewood was eldest and only surviving son and heir of Sir Thomas Hazlewood of Wyke House, and of Dame Margaret, his wife], and (3rd) Rev. Bernard Wilson of Newark-upon-Trent, Nots., D.D., Recites that by Indenture dated 1st March, 1739, James Hazlewood mortgages to F. Lay in trust for B. Wilson for Ten thousand pounds (£10,000), which with interest and other sums advanced is now £14,781 10s. 10d.

James Hazlewood by this Indenture now absolutely sells his Wick Estates, including certain Copyhold messuages held of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster, and certain Leasehold Tithes held also of such Dean and Chapter for £19,379 14s. 2d., out of which the Mortgage of £14,781 is to be deducted.

[These Wick estates are] All those the Manors or Lordships of Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell, the Mansion House—then in possession of Bernard Wilson—and Wick Park, &c., also the Farm, the then or late tenant being Samuel Wood, before him the tenant being John Dudley; another Farm House, the tenant being John Wood; another tenant was Richard Woodward; Cottagers or Copyholders being John Walker, . . . Young, Thomas Wagstaffe, Edward Pugh, Sarah Holder, Mary Blake, John Hobdy, Widow Marshall, William Hall, John Smith, Joseph Checkets, Edward Styles, Jonathan Sherwood, James Andrews, Sam Walford, William Osborne, Edward Badger, Bentley Quarrel, Ann Everell, Joseph Bushell, Joseph Bozward, John Hunter, William Severn, John Hawley, and Pinnock and others; also land at Pensham and Holy Cross, and St. Andrew's, Pershore; also Mansion and Land at Offenham, with Tithes, &c.; also the Lordship or Manor of Bricklehampton, with land, Farm House, and Cottages; also the Lordship or Manor of Bengeworth, with land and houses, including the Rectory House, &c., with the Tithes and right of patronage; also land in Little Comberton and Eckington.

APPENDIX II.

(See page 133.)

INDENTURE BETWEEN REV. JOHN ASH AND RICHARD HUDSON,
AND ELEANOR HIS WIFE, 1767. ALSO DEED ROLL, 1775.
(Excerpt from Deeds in Rolls Court.)

ASH and HUDSON :—

This Indenture, made the 7th day of January, in the 7th year of the Reign of our Sovereign Lord George III., by the Grace of God of Great Britain, France, and Ireland King, Defender of the Faith, and so forth. And in the year of Our Lord 1767, Between the Rev. John Ash of Pershore, in Co. Worcester, Baptist Preacher, of the one part, and Richard Hudson of the same place, gentleman, and Eleanor his wife, of the other part. Whereas the said Richard Hudson and Eleanor his wife, on Michaelmas term^a last past, in the 7th year of the reign of his present Majesty, before his Majesty's Justices at Westminster, did in due form of Law acknowledge and levy unto the said John Ash and his Heirs one Fine, "Sur conizance de droit come ceo," with proclamation thereupon had, according to the Form of statute in that case made and provided, of all and singular the Messuages, Farms, Lands, Tenements, Hereditaments, and Premises hereinafter particularly mentioned, that is to say : Of all these several Messuages, &c., whereof Thomas Harris, late of Broughton Hackett, in the said County of Worcester, Gentleman, deceased, late Father of the said Eleanor, wife of the said Richard Hudson, stood seized in fee to him and his heirs for ever, situate, lying, and being in the several parishes of Broughton Hackett, Flyford Fflavel, North Piddle, Holy Cross in Pershore, and Castlemorton in the said County of Worcester, and now in the several occupations of . . . as under-tenants to the said Richard Hudson and Eleanor his wife. And also of the Reversion and inheritance of all those messuages, &c., expectant after the death of Mary Sheriff, situate, &c., in the several parishes of North Piddle aforesaid, and Castlemorton in said Co. of Worcester, and now in the occupation of the said Mary Sheriff or her under-tenants; also of the Reversion, &c., Remainder, &c., Rent and services of all and singular the said premises above-mentioned,

^a i.e. from 29 Sep. to 10 Nov. [1766], or 7 Geo. III.

and of every part and parcel thereof with their and every of their Appurtenances, together with all houses, outhouses, edifices, buildings, barns, stables, gardens, orchards, courts, yards, backsides, ways, waters, water-courses, hedges, ditches, fences, mounds, trees, woods, underwoods, furrows, freeboard, commons, common of pasture, profits, privileges, advantages, and appurtenances whatsoever by that name and description of nine messuages, 13 barns, 6 stables, 3 dovehouses, 9 gardens, 15 orchards, 500 acres of land, 50 acres of meadow, and 150 acres of pasture and common of pasture, &c., in the parishes of [as above-mentioned] in which said fine so had and levied as aforesaid the said John Ash is Plaintiff, and the said Richard Hudson and Eleanor his wife Defendants. And whereas no uses, &c., have been hitherto declared Now this Indenture witnesseth :—

“It then recites that John Ash and his heirs, &c., do then hereafter stand seized for the uses, interests, and purposes of the said Richard Hudson and his wife Eleanor for their natural lives and the life of the longer liver. R. Hudson having power during his life, and at his decease his wife, to lease out the various Farms for any term not exceeding 21 years, reserving a fair rent, and doing no harm to the Reversioner. At the death of R. Hudson and his Wife, then for the use and behoof of :—”

all and every the child or children of the said Richard Hudson on the body of the said Eleanor, begotten or to be begotten, if more than one son or daughter, in such manners, shares, and proportions as the said Richard Hudson, by any deed or instrument in writing, or by his last Will and Testament, or by any writing purporting to be his last Will and Testament, duly executed in the presence of three or more witnesses, shall declare, direct, limit, or appoint failing such appointment, &c., then to his children by Eleanor as above in equal shares should there be no children who attain 21, or if girls, marry then to and for such use and uses, interests and purposes as the said Eleanor, notwithstanding her coverture by any Deed or Deeds or Instrument in writing, or by her last Will and Testament, &c., shall declare, direct, limit, or appoint failing this Then to and for the use and behoof of the Right Heirs of the said Eleanor for ever, and to and for no other use, intent, or purpose whatsoever, Provided always that it shall and may be lawful to and for the said Richard Hudson and Eleanor his wife, at any time hereafter, by any deed, &c. to revoke, make void, alter and determine all or any of the uses or Estates herein, &c., as to them the said Richard Hudson and Eleanor his wife shall seem meet in lieu and in the place and stead of

the Uses and Estates, which shall be by them so as aforesaid revoked or determined. In witness thereof, &c.

JOHN ASH,
RICHARD HUDSON,
ELEANOR HUDSON.

And be it remembered that on the 10th day of October, 1775, the aforesaid R. Hudson and Eleanor his wife came before our said Lord the King in his Chancery and acknowledged the Indenture aforesaid and all and every thing therein contained and specified in form above written, and also the Indenture aforesaid was stamped according to the tenure of the statute made in the 6th year of the late King and Queen, William and Mary, of England, and so forth.

Inrolled the 12th October, 1775.

DEED POLL INROLLED WITH ABOVE INDENTURE.

Hudson and Uxor.—Deed Poll.

To all to whom these presents shall come, Richard Hudson of Pershore, in the county of Worcester and Eleanor his wife send greeting :—

Whereas by Indenture purporting to be a deed to lend the uses of a fine being date 6th January, in the 7th year of the reign of his present Majesty [1767], between

“It then recites the terms of the Indenture; recapitulates the property; and proceeds :”—

Now know ye that we the said Richard Hudson and Eleanor Hudson, according to and in pursuance of the above mentioned power to us reserved in and by the herein in part recited Indenture and of all and every other power, &c., Do and both of us Doth by this present deed signed with our hands and sealed with our seals and testified by all the witnesses whose names are hereupon endorsed revoke and make void all and every the uses in the said herein in part recited Indenture. And also know ye that we the said Richard Hudson and Eleanor Hudson, according to and in pursuance of and by and for and by virtue of the said recited power and authority to declare, direct, limit, and appoint such use or uses, Estate or Estates of the same premises hereby so revoked on that behalf given unto us the said Richard Hudson and Eleanor Hudson, or any way enabling us thereunto, do and both of us doth by this our writing under our hands and seals attested by the persons whose names are hereunto endorsed as witnesses, hereunto declare, direct, limit, and appoint the several and respective use and uses, Estate and Estates

of the same premises as are hereinafter particularly mentioned (that is to say), As for and concerning all and singular the said messuages, &c. . . . we and both of us doth hereby direct, limit, and appoint all and every the said messuages, farms, &c., unto and for such uses, Estates, interests, and purposes as are hereinafter mentioned and expressed of and concerning the same (that is to say), To and for the only proper use and behoof of the said Richard Hudson, his Heirs and assigns for ever, and to and for no other use, intent, or purpose whatsoever. In witness whereof, &c., [dated] 24th March, 1775.

Witnesses :
JOHN HAYDON,
HARRY LONG,
T. BARTON.

RICHARD HUDSON,
ELEANOR HUDSON.

And be it remembered that on the 10th October, 1775, the said Richard Hudson and Eleanor his wife came before our said Lord the King in his Chancery and acknowledged, &c.

Enrolled in Court 12th Oct., 1775.

APPENDIX III.

(See page 133.)

INDENTURE, REV. BERNARD WILSON AND OTHERS, TO RICHARD HUDSON, 1776. (Excerpt from Deed in Rolls Court.)

MUSGRAVE and HUDSON:—

This Indenture quadrupartite dated 4th January, 1776, between (1) Joseph Musgrave of Hanover Square, &c., nephew and heir of Thomas Musgrave, late of Grays Inn, (2) James Hawley, M.D., of Great Russell Street, sole surviving Executor to above Thomas Musgrave, (3) Robert Wilson Cracraft, of Newark-upon-Trent, and of Hackthorne, Co. Lincoln, eldest son and heir of Robert Cracraft, late of Hackthorne, Co. Lincoln, and nephew of the late Rev. Bernard Wilson, and (4) Richard Hudson, of Pershore, Esq. Whereas by Indenture of Lease and Release dated 21-22 July, 1747, between Bernard Wilson and Thomas Musgrave, the said B. Wilson grants and releases unto T. Musgrave all those Manors, &c., in Worcestershire, at Wick near Pershore, and elsewhere on payment to him in the Common Dining Hall of Lincoln's Inn the sum of £8,000, with interest at 5 per cent.:—

"This was not done at due date: Thomas Musgrave died 22nd March, 1756. Bernard Wilson died [will proved at York] 21st April, 1772, leaving his estates to Robert Wilson Cracraft. Then there was a family row between R. W. Cracraft and William Linthwaite, whose wife was a niece of the late R. Cracraft, but which does not affect us. It then proceeds."

And whereas the said Richard Hudson hath contracted and agreed to purchase from Robert Wilson Cracraft the aftermentioned estates and also for the absolute purchase of two other small freehold estates, which the said Bernard Wilson purchased to him and his heirs for ever of John Smith and William Sherwood respectively, and for the purchase of divers leasehold and copyhold lands situate at Wick near Pershore aforesaid, St. Andrew's in Pershore aforesaid, and Pensham in the Co. of Worcester, and for the price or sum of £17,960. In consideration whereof:—

"There is sold to Richard Hudson" All those the Manors or Lordships of Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell, in Co. Worcester, with their rights, members, and appurtenances. And all that capital Messuage or Mansion House situate at Wick near Pershore, formerly in the possession of James Hazlewood, afterwards the said Bernard Wilson, and now or late of the said Richard Hudson and William Bell, together with the Gardens, Orchards, Courts, Yards, Dove-houses, stables, barns, and out-houses to the same adjoining, or lying near to the said capital messuage or Mansion House, formerly called or known by the names of Wick Park (Wyke House), and the Park Meadow and the Paddock Closes. And all that messuage or tenement situate and being in Wick near Pershore aforesaid, commonly called the Farm House, heretofore in the possession of the said James Hazlewood, his tenant or tenants, and afterwards, &c., and now or late in the possession of the said Richard Hudson, and William Bell, Richard Deakins, William Osborne, John Woodward, and Edward Lloyd, and formerly in the occupation of one Samuel Wood, Together with the gardens, orchards, courts, yards, barns, stables, outhouses, lands, tenements, meadows, leasows, pastures, feedings, commons, tithes and hereditaments whatsoever, with the appurtenances to the said messuage or tenement called the farm house, formerly belonging or in any wise appertaining or with the same or any part thereof formerly held, &c. And also all that messuage or tenement with the lands, &c., situate, lying and being at Wick near Pershore aforesaid, in the tenure or occupation heretofore of Samuel Wood, and afterwards of the said James Hazlewood, his tenants or assigns, and formerly in the occupation of John Dudley, and lately of the said Bernard Wilson his under-tenants or

assigns, and now in the occupation of the said Richard Deakins, and also :—

“A messuage or tenement called Quarrell's late tenanted by John Wood, but now by William Abell. Also all that one house, Backside and orchard lately tenanted by Richard Woodward.”

All which said messuages, lands, tenements, and hereditaments and premises were formerly in the several tenures, &c., of Bernard Wilson, John Walker, Young, Thomas Wagstaffe, Edward Pew, Sarah Holder, Mary Blake, John Holder, Richard Ricketts, Samuel Harman, William Hall, Widow Marshall, John Smith, Joseph Checketts, Edward Stiles, Jonathan Sherwood, John Hatch, Bentley Hatton, James Andrews, Jane Walford, William Osborne, Edward Badger, Bentley Quarrell, John Freeman, Ann Everill, Joseph Bushell, William Hackett, Joseph Bozward, John Hunter, William Severn, William Dancock, John Lawley, Pinnock, and the said James Hazlewood, or some of them, and are now or late were in the several possessions of the said Richard Hudson, William Bell, William Osborne, Edward Lloyd, Richard Deakin, William Abell, John Woodward, John Collett, Thomas Hyatt, Richard Rose, Thomas Fisher, Elizabeth Raybourn, Bentley Hatton, Joseph Bushell, Mary Turner, Thomas Merriman, Richard Edginton, Thomas Bozward, Nathaniel Gould, William Hall, Hannah Haynes, Edward Wheeler, Elizabeth Bozward, William Moulds, William Sherwood, Richard Badger, John Hatch, John Phillips, and John Shayler. And also all that portion of tythes and tenths of Corn, Grain, and Hay, yearly arising, coming and growing, renewing, happening, or increasing in Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell and Wick near Pershore, &c. all situate lying and being in Wyke Waryn and Wike Burnell and Wick near Pershore aforesaid, or in the Parishes of Holy Cross and St. Andrew's or elsewhere in Pershore and Pensham, &c. and eight messuages, twelve cottages, two dove-houses, eleven barns, seven stables, twelve gardens, twenty orchards, four hundred acres of land, sixty acres of meadow, forty acres of pasture, ten acres of furze and heath, common of pasture for all manner of cattle, and free fishing in the river Avon. View of Frankpledge, Escheats, Estrays, goods and chattels, waived and estrayed goods and chattels of felons, fugitives, and persons outlawed and put in exigent, deodands, fairs, markets, reliefs, herriotts, fines, amerciements, liberties, privileges, profits, commodities, emoluments, and hereditaments whatsoever, with the appurtenances in Wyke Waryn, Wike Burnell, Wick near Pershore, and in the parishes of St. Andrew's and Holy Cross in Pershore, and also of the annual rent of Two pounds five shillings and eleven pence halfpenny issuing out of divers messuages, lands, and tenements in Wike Burnell, Wyke Waryn, and Pensham, and likewise of the Tythes of Corn, Grain, and

Hay yearly arising, growing, or renewing in Wyke Waryn, Wike Burnell, and Wick near Pershore, &c.

"Also a Farm House and Farm called Tandys, containing 140 acres, tenanted by William Bell, at a rent of £135 16s."

"Also a Farm called Wrightens, tenanted by William Abell, at a rent of £116."

"Also all property reversions, &c., belonging to R. W. Cracroft in Wyke Warren, Wike Burnell, and Wick near Pershore, or in the Parishes of Holy Cross and St. Andrew's, or elsewhere in Pershore and Pensham, as set out in Deed of 2 July, 1749, between Bernard Wilson and Thomas Musgrave." Except lands and hereditaments in Bricklehampton, Co. Worcester. . . . And this Indenture further witnesseth. . . . R. Cracroft sells, &c., to R. Hudson, &c., all that Messuage, Cottage, or tenement situate at Wick near Pershore, with the gardens, &c., belonging now and in the occupation of William Sherwood, Blacksmith, and which the said B. Wilson purchased of him. . . .

"Also a parcel of Meadow Land, being in a Common meadow called Piddle Meadow, shooting on a part of meadow land called the Boating Place, containing one acre or thereabouts."

"Also a parcel of land in the same meadow, of say half-an-acre, having land of Daniel Young on one side and of John Pinnock on the other, and also that other parcel of land in the same meadow, say half-an-acre, with land of William Fell on one side, with all their rights, &c., which were recently purchased by the said Bernard Wilson."

JOSEPH MUSGRAVE,
ROBERT WILSON CRACRAFT,
JAMES HAYLEY.

Received of Richard Hudson the sum of £9,960.

ROBERT WILSON CRACRAFT.

Received of Richard Hudson the sum of £8,000.

JOSEPH MUSGRAVE.

6 Jan. 1776.

I the within named Richard Hudson do hereby acknowledge, &c.

Witnesses :
WAKEMAN LONG.
RICHARD SMART.

RICHARD HUDSON.

And be it remembered that on the 13 April, 1776, the aforesaid, &c.

Inrolled 22 April, 1776.

APPENDIX IV.

(See page 146.)

THE RIGHT TO BEAR ARMS.

THE last half-century has found a renewed and increasing interest in the question of Arms, and this reaction on the part of the public has been accompanied by a more persistent assertion on the part of the Heralds Office, not only by the Corporation of the College itself, but by those who are connected with it officially or otherwise, of their old-standing but ever disputed claim that no one of H.M. lieges in England and Wales and Ireland have a right to bear arms except that their pedigrees are continuously recorded in the Heralds Office, or proved to the satisfaction of that office, of course, on payment of fees for same. The Heralds Office practically ignores all Family tradition and Private Records, and shews an entirely unsympathetic front to those who prefer the Arms that their family has worn for several centuries, to a brand new Grant from Queen Victoria Street, with its irritating "differencing." Although the College of Arms disputes the right of any one to bear Arms not registered in their Books, or who cannot prove male descent from the original Grantee, it must be remembered that with the exception of those who have received recent grants that their records are mainly the result of their Visitations, which ended over two hundred years ago; also that nearly the whole of Ireland and many parts of England were not visited, and to this day the College accepts the Arms of Families in Ireland on their Family Private Records.

The Heralds Office or College of Arms only dates its Charter as a College of Arms from the reign of King Henry VIIIth (8 Henry, Chap. 20), previously to that it had only been incorporated as an Office of the Heralds. But Henry VIII., as Duke of York, filled the office of Earl Marshal from 1497 to 1509, when he ascended the Throne.

Henry VIII. was the first to weaken the position of the old County Aristocracy; this possibly was the accident of circumstances, and not intentional; but his wholesale confiscation of the Church Lands and of the lands of the Landed Gentry of the old Faith, necessitated his planting in their place the rich merchants to whom he had sold the properties; and as the Monasteries, which up till then had been the custodians of the Family Records, were demolished, records and all, it was necessary to record these brand new Landed Families, and to grant

them arms. As Henry had been Earl Marshal he was aware of the working of the Heralds Office, and so appointed the Officials to be a College of Arms with power of visitation; this was in 1528.

The first Visitation was held in 1530, in Cornwall, and they were thereafter held from time to time, for about 100 years, vigorously at first, but gradually falling off as they found the old Families took no notice of them.

Doubtless many families of incontestable sound status looked upon the whole thing as a nuisance, and as long as they satisfied the Heralds in the main line of descent did not further bother; the Heralds do not appear to have enforced absolute accuracy, and excepting as to flagrant misstatements these officers were probably not too particular, and looked chiefly to their fees. The recent researches of Mr. Meade-Faulkner have added much to our knowledge on this subject. In his work on our neighbouring County, Oxford (*History of Oxfordshire*, by J. Meade-Faulkner, 1899), at pages 195—8, he says :—

“The first Visitation in 1566 of Oxford County consisted of one of the Kings of Arms making a circuit through the county, visiting various houses and Churches noting Arms on painted windows and monuments, and afterwards holding the Court in each principal town, to which the neighbouring gentry were summoned, to give proof of their Arms. If proof was satisfactory, substantial fee had to be paid. If no proof, Arms were broken and defaced. Evidently Fees were at the bottom of it.

“In this visitation 120 commoner families were recorded in Oxfordshire, and Pedigree in most cases given, but there is an absence of certain well-known great though untitled families.

“The University claimed exemption altogether under privileges given by Henry IV. and Henry VIII., and many families did not appear in order to save expense. The visitation is of course proof as to the names it mentions, but on the other hand is not of any value as showing that a family did not at that date have a right to possess arms.

“The second Visitation was in 1634, and in this interval of peace and good trade an increase would have been expected in the number of County gentry. Instead of that we find only 97 registered as entitled to bear Arms against 120 in the former visitation, and of this number only 29 of those first registered appear on the whole of the second Visitation, a clear proof of the number of new grants of Arms that were being made, and also of the absurdity of this Visitation representing every one in the County who was entitled to bear Arms.

“Among the visitation records is a long list of those who disclaimed Gentry, undoubtedly for no other reason than to get out of paying the fee.

"The third Visitation was in 1668, after the Restoration, but very little attention was paid to it, as it was generally looked on by most people as simply a trick on the part of the Herald Office to get money."

Obviously then, as now, many persons of gentle blood were poor and could not pay the fees; and most certainly would not allow themselves to be registered *in forma pauperis*, so they either ignored the visitors, or disclaimed.

But it must be borne in mind that if a man who was entitled to bear Arms was pressed by the Visitation and disclaimed he could only disclaim for himself, and not for his descendants; so there is no proof here.

A Bishop has similar powers of visitation; but, because one of his Clergy will not attend same, or puts his Lordship at defiance, the Bishop cannot in consequence take away his Orders.

"To show the weakness of the Worcester Visitations, the total number recorded at the four visitations of Worcestershire was 300; but many families of course entered their names in more than one Visitation. Surely when we bear in mind that every true male descendant of an Armigerous person could carry the Family Arms the number is absurd. It was not so much the fee as the inquisitorial character of the inquiry and the expenses attending at the County Town that were the deterrents.

"John Tristan of Belbroughton appears on list of Disclaimers, although they acknowledge him as of ancient descent and a right to bear Arms.

"The Brownes of Herefordshire, although seated at Little Frome for nearly four centuries, do not appear in any of the Visitations." The above is the published opinion of no less a person than Sidney Grazebrook, an officer of the Heralds Office, and a Worcestershire man.

A College of Arms is necessary, but where Tradition and Family Records indicate to any man of common sense the clear right of a Family to bear Arms such should be accepted by the College, and not met, as it is now, by a non-possumus: but as long as the officials are paid by fees only, the position they take up is certainly not illogical as far as they individually are concerned, and the ruling of the Corporation is the decision of the individuals. However, it would be well for them to remember that the College records themselves are very far from correct in many cases.

One weak point in the present position taken up by the College, and which in many cases proved the superior value of Family Records, is in the fact that grants of arms were up till quite recently made to the Applicant and to the descendants of his Grandfather, and the College allowed you to file a family pedigree for the three generations back to your Grandfather without verification of any kind. Although this Pedigree so filed might possibly be an imaginary one, the College would in years

thereafter admit (for a fee) the rights of any one to bear arms who could show his descent from any of the collateral branches of this (as I have suggested, imaginary) Pedigree. This being so, I think that if the College was more sympathetic to the present descendants of known old Families (and who resent any alterations to the Arms that they know their ancestors have borne for many centuries), although their Pedigrees may not be quite intact, they would I am sure secure more respect from those who they would perhaps wish to look up to them as a sound authority in these matters of Coats of Armour.

APPENDIX V.

(See page 152.)

THE WICK ENCLOSURE.

A PRIVATE Act of Parliament was passed in 1806 (46 Geo. III.) intitled, "An Act for inclosing Lands in the Hamlet or Chapelry of Wick-juxta-Pershore, with Wike Burnel and Wyke Waryn, all in the Parish of St. Andrew in Pershore in the Co. of Worcester." It recited, amongst other things :—

That the Hamlet contained several open Fields, Meadows, Pastures, Commonable and Waste Lands and Grounds.

That Richard Hudson, Esquire, claimed to be Lord of the Manors of Wick-juxta-Pershore, with Wike Burnel and Wyke Waryn ; but that this was disputed by the Dean and Chapter of Westminster as Lords of the Manor of Binholme^b, who also claimed these Lordships ;

That Thomas Hudson, Esquire, was seized of the Tythes of Corn, Grain, and Hay, issuing and arising from a considerable part of the Lands in the Hamlet ;

That Richard Hudson held a long lease of similar Tythes issuing, &c., from other Parts of the Lands, and of which the Dean and Chapter as above were seized ;

That the Vicar of St. Andrew's, Pershore (William Probyn) was entitled to the Tythes issuing, &c., from Buckland Meadow ;

That the Curate of Wick (Edward Dolman Cooper^c) was entitled to

^b The Dean and Chapter of Westminster had evidently used their powerful interest to get their names so inserted in the Bill, but it only resulted in such claim being finally abandoned by them (see page 243).

^c He was also Rector of Rouse Leuch.

certain lands and small Tythes, or to certain Moduses, Compositions, or other ancient payments in Lieu thereof;

That the Rector of Little Comberton (Joseph Martin) was entitled to the Tythes of Hay on about 100 acres in Piddle, Middleham, Littleham, and Emley Meadows;

That Richard Hudson, Thomas Hudson, and Henry Hudson, Esquires, John Drew and John Hatch, gentlemen, and others^d, are the Owners and Proprietors of Common Fields and Commonable Lands, enjoying Common of Pasture for their cattle over the said lands at stated times and in certain proportions;

That Richard Hudson is exclusively entitled to and doth enjoy yearly and every year Common of Pasture over the Wick Meadows, &c., containing about 100 acres for his Cattle for the Periods at the Times and manner following, that is to say, from Sun-rising to Sun-setting of each day (Sunday only excepted as to certain parts thereof) for 105 Sheep, from the Sunday after Old Candlemas Day to the Sunday after Old Lady-Day; for 19 cows and one Bull from Old Lady-day, to the Sunday after the third of Old May; for 4 Cows and one Bull from the Sunday after the third of Old May as long as there is any grass intended to be mown.

It then appoints John Stoke of Chambers Court, Thomas Fulljames of Hasfield, Co. Gloster, and Frederick Phelps of Twynning, as Commissioners (and with them Henry Clerk of Shipston-on-Stour as surveyor and valuer), to make the Division and Award, empowering them :

To shut up old roads and make new ones;

To set out and allot to the various persons concerned so much of the said lands and grounds as in their judgement are not of less value, and in full Satisfaction for all Tythes both great and small, Moduses or other Dues and Payments (except Mortuaries, Easter Offerings, and Surplice Fees), all of which Tythes and dues (except the Parson's fees as above) with all Right of Common shall thenceforth cease;

To put Ring fences to the said allotments, and to allot small holders of Common rights sums of money instead of land; and,

To allot such Piece or Pieces of Land as shall be equal in value to One-fifteenth part of the Waste Lands within the Hamlet unto the Lord or

^d These others were, in addition to those already mentioned, the Earl of Coventry, the Bishop of Worcester, Eleanor Hudson of Pershore, widow, Sir John Sebright, Bart., Robert Wilson of Pershore, Gent., William Taylor and William Fell of Wick, Farmers, William White and William Day of Pinvin, Farmers, Cyprian Willock of Brentford, and Thomas Shekell of Little Comberton, Farmers, the Rectors of Gt. Comberton, Eckington, and Toddenham, John and Thomas Whoods of Gt. Comberton, Farmers, John Woodward of Wick, Yeoman, John House of Pershore, Baker, and the Churchwardens of Pensham, Gt. Comberton and Wick.

Lords of the Manors of Wick-juxta-Pershore, Wike Burnell, and Wyke Waryn, in Lieu of and in full Compensation for his or their Right of Soil in and upon the said several lands and Grounds, and, It orders the Award and the Map to be kept in Wick Church*.

The first Meeting of the Commissioners was held at the 'Angel' Inn, Pershore, 14 July, 1806, and the Award was completed and signed 29 Aug., 1807.

They allot in Lieu of all Tythes (except Mortuaries, Easter Offerings, and Surplice Fees†):

To Richard Hudson for Leasehold Tythes 106 acres (about) bounded on the East by the Hamlet of Bricklehampton, on the South by the Turnpike Road, on N.W. by River Avon and Pinnock's Allotment; except the three allotments in the S.E. corner (now part of the Milestone piece);

To the Curate of Wick 55 acres (about) on the South of the Turnpike Road, and now called the Glebe Farm, also less than an acre on the East side of the Chapel Yard called Church Orchard, and given up by Henry Hudson in exchange for an equal quantity on West side of Chapel Yard;

To Thomas Hudson for Tythes 131 acres in the Upper Fields, which is practically now the Avon Bank Estate, exclusive of the antient demesne land of Wick Park. Also certain land in lieu of land lately purchased by him of Edward Marriott. Also as lessee under the Manor of Binholme, and in lieu of Commonable Lands, rights of Common and other Lands, about 127 acres of land running from the Village down the East side of Long Headland Road to the Avon;

To Richard Hudson (as above) in lieu of the Common of Pasture he was exclusively entitled to over the Wick Meadows (as previously mentioned in the Act), 19 acres (about) in the Meadows North of Eleanor Hudson's allotment;

To Eleanor Hudson in lieu of her Commonable Lands and rights of Common, 127 acres (about) of meadow land running from Wick Park Northwards with Long Headland Road on one side and Avon on the other;

To Henry Hudson in lieu of Commonable lands and rights of Common and other lands, 66 acres (about) in the Upper Fields. Also a piece of land nearly half an acre on the Westernmost side of the Church, it previously

* The Award and Map are in the Muni-ment-room of Mr. A. R. Hudson, having been placed there at the request of the Vestry many years since, the Documents suffering from Damp in the Church.

† These three are properly called Stole Fees, and seem to stick to the Parson through weal or woe.

having been Church Glebe; (This clearly earmarks the transfer of the land on which stands the mutilated Calvary into lay hands).

To Mary Pinnock, John Hatch, William Fell, Robert Wilson, and Joseph Young, and in lieu of Common Rights and scattered pieces of land certain land in the Eastern part of the Hamlet;

To the Lord or Lords of the Manors of Wick-juxta-Pershore, Wike Burnel, and Wyke Waryn, *4a. or. 32p.*, of what is now the Milestone Piece in lieu of and in full compensation and satisfaction of Right of Soil in and upon the said several lands and Grounds awarded to be enclosed^g.

The Award was duly proclaimed from the Pulpits of Wick Church and St. Andrew's Church, Pershore.

It will be of interest to record the Public rights of way, either by Carriage, on Horseback or on Foot that the Commissioners allowed, or set out.

Of Public Carriage ways there are :—

1. The present Turnpike Road from Pershore Bridge to where it enters Bricklehampton Parish—width, 60 feet.
2. The Village Road, from the Waylands Gate through the Village, turning Southwards at the East End, and then crossing the Turnpike Road and continuing on to Mary Brook (for Little Comberton), that portion being called Hendown Hill Road, and the width, 30 feet.
3. A Road leaving the Turnpike Road at the Cross Hands, and going up Pensham Hill—width, 30 feet.
4. A Road continuing on from this on the way to Gt. Comberton, with a road Branching out of it going to Little Comberton, both ending at Mary Brook, and being in width 30 and 40 feet respectively.
5. A Road leading from the Turnpike Road Northwards to the Village road opposite Vandyke of a width of 30 feet, and called Wick Road^h.

^g Upon this being done the Dean and Chapter of Westminster again made an attempt to claim the Lordship of the Manors, by sending their teams to cultivate the awarded land; but Richard Hudson II. had their work ploughed up and their hands turned off; and this is the last attempt of any kind that the Westminster authorities have made to claim right of Manor over land in Wick that is not of the Manor of Binholme.

^h This Road is still commonly known as the Timber Lane. About one-third of the way up going from the Village, on the right-hand side, used to be in my young days a sawpit, the last remains of the Wyke

House Manorial Timber Yard, and where the Wheelwright and Hedge-Carpenter of the Estate would have carried on their work, a cartway would naturally go North to the Village Street and the Northern part of the Estate; also Southwards to the Upper Fields, and all felled Timber going through it would obviously get it dubbed the Timber Lane.

When the High Road was put where it now is, the middle of the XVIIIth century, this lane would have been used to get down to the lower part of the Village, but at the Enclosure it was set out as a Public Carriage Way, and officially named Wick Road.

The Public Footways in the Hamlet are as follow :—

1. The footpath across the Waylands to Pershore, which from its direction and the name of the meadows may be considered the earliest of all our footways.
2. A footway from Wick to Cropthorne, little known to most people, and so its route may be fuller described.

It passes from the Village Street up Owlets Lane, leaving that road between the Farm buildings of The Grange and the last Cottages on the left, through Pinnock's old Cherry Orchards, leaving which it trends to the leftⁱ for a short way, and then goes about due South-east in a direct line, passing through the lands of the Dean and Chapter of Westminster and the land of Richard Hudson that was allotted for Tythes, and striking a Stile at the entrance into the Hamlet of Bricklehampton, at or near Elsbrook Close^k, and being the antient footpath from Wick-juxta-Pershore to Cropthorne.

3. A Footway from the top of Pensham Hill Road across the West End of the Avon Bank Estate into the Road for Little Comberton. This path as set out by the Award followed close inside the Hedge of the road to the Combertons; its shorter cut, more to the Eastward, and entering Avon Bank Estate at the Cross Hands, is, if not allowed, evidently a Trespass.
4. A Footway from Wick to Wyre Piddle, passing from the Village along the Private Road called Piddle Meadow Road, then from the end of this road at the entrance to Wyre Meadow, alongside and close to the hedge bounding the East End of this meadow, until you come to the last gate passing through this fence to one of the small meadows, then straight across to the Ferry landing. The direct route it now takes in a straight line from the N.E. corner of Chillingham Meadow to the Ferry is a Trespass.
5. The Towpaths that have been in antient use by the side of the River Avon.

The above include all the rights of way that the Public are entitled to by the Award.

The Carriage road from the East end of the Village (on which the

ⁱ Up to this point its course represented the old High Road from Pershore to Eve-sham, before the present Turnpike Road was cut over Wick Hill.

^k This Stile—or its Site—may be found by leaving the Turnpike Road by Oaklands

Farm buildings and walking North, alongside the Hedge dividing Wick Parish from Bricklehampton Parish, for about a short quarter of a mile. There is or should be the Stile.

right of footway runs to Wyre) called Piddle Meadow Road. The Carriage Road leading down from the entrance to the Waylands to Yolk Brook, called Long Headland Road. The Road from Piddle Meadow Road leading to the Sycamores. The Carriage Road leading from the Village Road up to The Grange Farm Buildings and called Owlets Lane are Private Carriage and Drift Ways for the use of the adjoining owners of Property only.

The Award also lays down who is responsible for keeping in order Footbridges, Gates, Private Roads, Stiles, Main Ditches, and the Quay by Avon side¹.

AN ASSESSMENT

for the necessary relief of the Poor and for the other purposes required by Act of Parliament mentioned relating to the Poor for the Hamlet or Chapelry of Wick-juxta-Pershore, Wike Burnel, and Wyke Waryn, all in the Parish of St. Andrew's in Pershore, in the County of Worcester, made and assessed the 19th day of December, 1807, being the first Rate made at . . . in the Pound for the present year.

<i>Occupiers.</i>	<i>Proprietors.</i>	<i>Description.</i>
Richard Hudson, Esq.	Richard Hudson, Esq.	The Customs, part of Cockbills and Allotment received in exchange.
Richard Hudson and Tenants.	Richard Hudson.	Divers Cottages, Gardens, and Old Inclosures.
Richard Hudson.	Mrs. Hudson.	Allottment.
Richard Hudson.	Mr. Oldaker.	Allottment in Lateham.
Mr. John Woodward.	Richard Hudson.	Cockbill's Farm.
Mr. John Woodward.	Richard Hudson.	Tythe Estate.
Mr. John Woodward.	Richard Hudson.	Manorial Allottment.
Henry Hudson, Esq., and Tenants.	Henry Hudson, Esq.	The Freehold Estate.
Henry Hudson and Tenants.	Henry Hudson.	Long Lease Estate.
Henry Hudson and Tenants.	Henry Hudson.	Smith's Copyhold Estate.

¹ John Stone, one of the Commissioners app^d by the Act, declined acting, and Richard Hudson, Thomas Hudson, and Henry Hudson, were appointed to nominate an-

other Commissioner, which they did in the person of William Callow of Ismere, near Kidderminster.

<i>Occupiers.</i>	<i>Proprietors.</i>	<i>Description.</i>
Henry Hudson and Tenants.	Henry Hudson.	Bell's Copyhold Estate.
Henry Hudson and Tenants.	Henry Hudson.	Wheeler's Copyhold Estate.
Henry Hudson and Tenants.	Henry Hudson.	Coxe's Copyhold Estate.
Henry Hudson and Tenants.	Henry Hudson.	Barnes's Copyhold Estate.
Henry Hudson.	The Rev. Edw. Doleman Cooper.	Chapel Yard and Garden, &c.
Thos. Hudson, Esq.	Thos. Hudson, Esq.	Freehold Estate and Osier Beds.
Thomas Hudson.	Thomas Hudson.	Brown's Leasehold Estate.
Mr. William Fell and Tenants.	Mr. William Fell.	Two Farm Houses and Farm.
Bell (Widow).	Mr. William Fell.	A Messuage and Garden
Mr. John Hatch and Tenants.	Mr. John Hatch.	Freehold Estate.
Mr. John Hatch and Tenants.	Mr. John Hatch.	Powers's Copyhold Estate.
Mr. John Hatch.	Mr. John Hatch.	Clark's Copyhold Estate.
Mr. George Abel.	Mr. John Wilson.	Freehold including the Allotment of the Rev. Mr. Sandby.
Mr. George Abel.	Mr. Robt. Wilson.	Homestead and Farm.
Mrs. Mary Pynock.	Mrs. Mary Pynock. (Free and Copy).	Homestead and Farm.
Joseph Young.	Joseph Young.	Freehold Allotment.
Joseph Young.	Joseph Young.	Copyhold Estate.
William Taylor.	William Taylor.	A Messuage, Garden Orchard, and Allotment.
	Chapel Wardens of Wick.	A Messuage Allotment.
William Wheeler.	Rev. Edward Doleman Cooper.	Allotments.
Mr. Phipps.	Rev. Joseph Martin.	Allotment.
Rev. William Probyn.	John Graves.	Goatley Hill Allotment.
William Clemens.	Edmund Wigley, Esq.	Meadow Allotment.

<i>Occupiers.</i>	<i>Proprietors.</i>	<i>Description.</i>
John Whood.	John Whood, late J. Hatch & Willock.	Meadow Allottment.
John Whood.	Rev. Thos. Williams.	Meadow Allottment.
Mr. Colinridge.	Charles Hanford, Esq.	Meadow Allottment.
	Lord Northwick.	Meadow Allottment.
	Ralph Adderly, Esq.	Allottment.
Mr. Thomas Shekell.	Thomas Shekell and late T. Whood.	Allottment at Mary- brook.
William Godwin Yend.	William Godwin Yend.	Allottment at Mary- brook.
Wallis.	Wallis.	A Messuage and Garden.
Anthony Croft.		A Garden.
William Stanton.		Cottage and Garden.
William Pricketts.		Cottage and Garden.
Thomas Rudge.		Cottage and Garden.
Thomas Birch.		Cottage and Garden.
		The Wharf.

The above Rate is made according to
the Valuation of the Commissioners
appointed by Act of Parliament for
inclosing the said Hamlet.

Allowed by us,
(Signed) WM. PROBYN.
(Signed) THO. FARLEY.

(Signed) HENRY CLARK,
Surveyor.

APPENDIX VI.

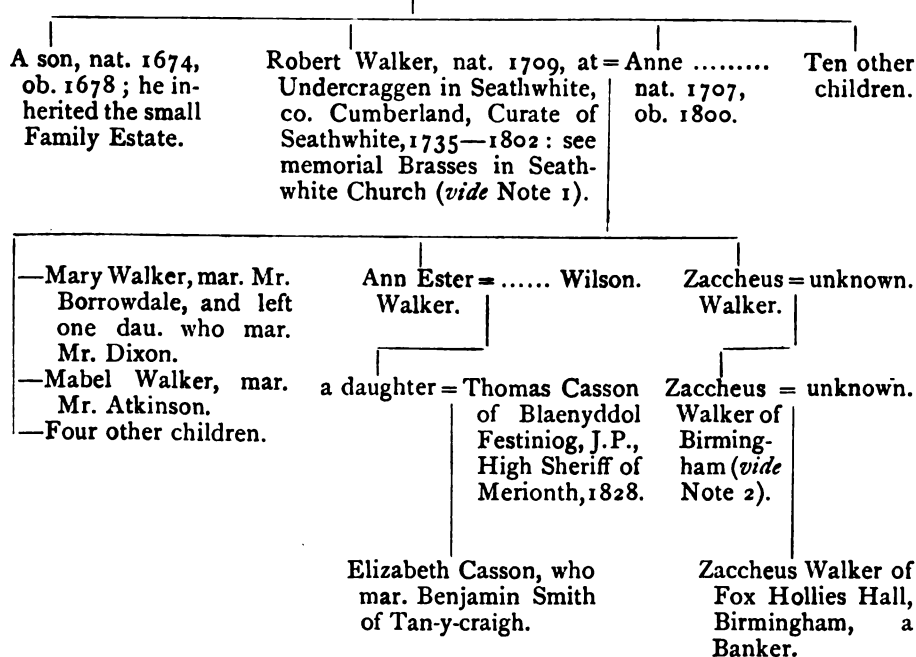
(See page 161.)

FAMILY OF WALKER,

SHEWING THE DESCENT OF

MRS. BENJAMIN SMITH I.

..... Walker. = to whom mar. unknown.



Note 1.—The Poet Wordsworth, in his poem "The Excursion," draws attention to this primitive Parson, giving a prose history of his life from material supplied by the Family: he is the Parson alluded to in the 18th sonnet as a worthy compeer of Goldsmith's country Parson "passing rich on £40 a year." When Parson Walker took the Curacy it was worth £5 a year, and in a letter of his (1775) regretting the loss of "an amiable pledge of conjugal endearment," he mentions his income as consisting of the Dower with his wife producing £40 yearly, and his stipend all told of £17 10s. He was later offered a richer cure, but declined to move from "his simple life to the vices of a large City."

Note 2.—Zaccheus Walker was mixed up with Bolton and Watt in developing the Steam Engine; he travelled in the United States, where he made the acquaintance of Robespierre: later on in Paris he was imprisoned by the Revolutionists as an Autocrat and condemned to the Guillotine, his head being shaved for the purpose. Robespierre, then at his zenith, noticed the uncommon name when scanning his usual daily list, rushed off to the Prison, and finding it was his old friend, helped him to disguise, and gave him the money and supplied the means for him to escape from the Bastille.

APPENDIX VII.

MANOR OF BINHOLME.

FROM the Manor Rolls and Accounts of the Ecclesiastical Manor of Binholme (Pensham), belonging to the Collegiate Church of St. Mary at Westminster, the Dean and Chapter being Lords of the Manor, the following information may be of interest, shewing the holdings of the Manor in the Hamlet of Wick, as at about 1800 :—

1. Power's Copyhold of about 34 acres.—The Homestead of this was about 100 yds. East of Glenmore House. The Farm house, an antient one of stone, was later turned into cottages, but Cottages and Farm buildings were burnt down about 1850. The site is now a vegetable garden North of the Village Street.
In 1800 this Copyhold was in hand with John Hatch. Earlier tenants being John Fort, 1674.—The Power family, 1749.—Bentley Quarrel, 1752.—Later tenants being Richard Hudson II., 1812.—Then Richard Hudson III.—Then Wilton Woodward.
2. Clarke's Copyhold.—The Homestead of this was the Farm Buildings and the old Farm House (of a much later date than Power's) that was altered into what is now Glenmore House for George B. Hudson when he first married. In 1800 it was in hand with John Hatch. Earlier tenants being R. Haynes, 1668.—G. Quarrel and Bentley, 1689.—John Drew, 1798. Later tenants were R. Hudson II., 1812.—R. Hudson III., then Wilton Woodward ^m.
3. Barnes' Copyhold about 30 acres.—The Homestead of this was the present cottages and Farm buildings on your right just as you enter Owlet's lane going up to The Grange from the village street. The land lay down Wyre Piddle lane on the right. It was in hand in 1800 with John Drew. Earlier tenants being Nicholas Barnes, 1664.—The Wagstaffes, 1692.—John Drew, 1794.—In 1810 Henry Hudson I. held it.
4. Wheeler's Copyhold consisted of part of big Piddle Meadow. Tenants being John Blake, 1668.—The Goodwyns, 1677 to 1800.— Whittaker, 1800.

^m The two Copyholds of Power and what George B. Hudson farmed for so Clarke practically represent a portion of many years.

5. Cox's Copyhold was land about half-way down Piddle Lane on the left. Tenants being The Dangerfields and Wagstaffes, 1671 to 1749. Then John Drew, and in 1808 Henry Hudson I.
6. Smith's Copyhold. The Homestead of this was opposite the Blacksmith's, the Farm House being the present Cottages^a, and the farm buildings and barns of recent years having been used as a Carpenter's shop. The land was the orchard running up to the Evesham Road, and 70 acres in the upper fields, the West side of the Comberton road. In 1800 it was in hand with Henry Hudson I. Earlier tenants being Archer, 1688.—John Smith, 1726.—B. Wilson, 1764.—R. Hudson I., 1776.
7. Wheeler's Copyhold about 29 acres. Tenants being — The Wheelers, 1686 to 1785.—Henry Hudson I., 1815.—Alfred R. Hudson, 1848.
8. Bell's Copyhold—about 60 acres. The Homestead was North of the Village Green, where the Post Office is now, and the Farm buildings opposite. The land ran down North of this towards the River. Tenants were, Bentley Hatton, 1666 to 1676.—Wm. Bell, 1786.—Rich. Hudson I., 1800.—Henry Hudson I., 1827.

Besides these holdings there was Brown's Leasehold, which ran from the Village street down to the River on the East side of Long Headland Road, and on which stands Vandyke and some of the adjoining cottages on that side of the Village street.

Most of these estates have been enfranchised during the last century, and now mainly belong to the Hudsons.

The dates attached to the names of the different Copyholders are the dates of the termination of their holding.

APPENDIX VIII.

(See page 212.)

WICK CHURCH, OR THE CHAPEL OF WYKE WARYN.

AT first sight it seems difficult to realise that although this Church was built in the XIIth Century, it could not bury either in Church or

^a I fancy these have been quite recently rebuilt.

Church Yard its village dead until about 1880. But one's study need not be deep to enable one to grasp how tenacious all Ecclesiastical Authorities, either Rich Foundation or Corporations, Rector or Vicar, were to keep in their own hands and not devolute elsewhere this right of burying with its accompanying and satisfactory Mortuary and other Stole Fees; The Rectors and Vicars of the last 300 years held on as keenly to these Mortuary Fees as did the Clergy of pre-Reformation days. So Wick only got a Churchyard to herself when the Pershore Church Yards were closed by the Local Government Board—a Lay Authority—and when the Fees for Burials passed away from the Vicar of St. Andrew's, Pershore, to the Cemetery Authorities.

Wick Church was during a portion of the last century incorrectly called the Church of St. Laurence; but the Episcopal Registers state that on the 10th April, 1479, John Walyce was ordained a Sub-Deacon on the Title of the Free Chapel of St. Bartholomew within the Manors of Wick-juxta-Pershore.

The East Window has the Crucifixion in the middle pane; The Blessed Virgin and St. John on either side, and at the foot the inscription: "To the Glory of God, and in Memory of Henry Hudson, 1782—1847, and Mary his wife, 1785—1863, a son's graceful and affectionate tribute." The Window was erected by Mr. Alfred Ricketts Hudson of Wyke House.

APPENDIX IX.

EXTRACTS FROM CHURCH REGISTERS.

Pershore, St. Andrew's.

Chas. Oldaker, mar. Anne Mogridge, both of this Parish, 10 Feb. 1802.

Witnesses: Martha Oldaker and John Bedford.

Mar. by William Probyn.

Pershore, Holy Cross.

William Marriott of St. Andrew's Parish, Batchelor, mar. Lydia Mogridge of same parish, Spinster, 5 Mar. 1804.

Witnesses: Chas. Oldaker and Ann Oldaker.

Mar. by Denham Cookes.

Vicar, William Probyn.

Pershore, St. Andrew's.

Thomas Warrington of St. Mary-le-bone, London, mar. Jane Oldaker,
19 July, 1831.

Witnesses: Wm. Oldaker, Edmund Wells Oldaker, Fanny Oldaker,
Margaret Pruen.

Pershore, St. Andrew.

George Richard Port of Portland, Co. Dorset, mar. Ann Oldaker,
Widow, 4 Oct. 1832. Same day George Bengough Hudson mar.
Frances Mary Oldaker.

Witnesses to 1st: W. A. Pruen and W. W. Pruen.

„ to 2nd: George Oldaker and Ellen Hudson.

Mar. by William Henry Mogridge.

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